

Minister attacks 'mutiny'

Thatcher cool to Heseltine's poll tax plans

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Prime Minister yesterday ruled out structural changes to the poll tax, including the idea of forcing councils that exceed government spending targets to hold local elections.

But Mrs Margaret Thatcher said Mr Michael Heseltine's proposals for the reform of the community charge, set out in *The Times* yesterday, contained "many good ideas". Ministers appeared ill-prepared for Mr Heseltine's package, which dominated Prime Minister's question time and was an obsessive topic of conversation around Westminster yesterday. Mr Heseltine, who was absent from the chamber during the Commons exchanges his article provoked, denied that his challenge to the Cabinet to act swiftly on poll tax reforms amounted to a challenge to Mrs Thatcher's leadership.

But his close lieutenant, Dr Keith Hampton, the MP for Leeds North West, acknowledged that the former Cabinet minister had great difficulty in treading the narrow line between being disloyal and acknowledging his wish to lead the Conservative Party. While Mrs Thatcher was cautiously welcoming government sources made plain that few of Mr Heseltine's ideas were likely to survive the scrutiny of the committee of Cabinet ministers reviewing the poll tax. The operation of the tax, not its principle, was being considered.

But sources at the Department of the Environment

welcomed what they saw as Mr Heseltine's endorsement of the principle that nearly all adults should contribute to the cost of local government. Mr Heseltine would be welcomed, as would other backbenchers, if he sought a meeting with Mr Michael Portillo, the new Minister for Local Government. Both Mr Portillo and Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, acknowledged that Mr Heseltine had an important contribution to make.

But at the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen Mr Michael Forsyth, the Scottish party chairman and a junior minister, accused Mr Heseltine of leading a mutiny. Without naming him, he said: "Loyalty is the currency of success - not mutiny. Every Conservative can get front page coverage by publicly attacking the leadership and policies of this party. They are free to do so, but be in no doubt that they are doing the Opposition's work for them and I for one am sick and tired of it." Dr Hampton defended Mr Heseltine from such attacks saying he had been criticized for not setting out his alternatives to the community charge. Now he had done so, he was accused of stirring things up.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, made plain that he saw Mr Heseltine's intervention as a challenge to Mrs Thatcher's authority, but Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, hoped the party was not a challenge to her leadership. That question, he said, had been "resolved for the next election". Certainly, in the less-fervent atmosphere after the local elections and with hopes that today's inflation rate will remain in single figures, there was little inclination among Tory MPs to speculate about leadership battles. They also greeted the substance of Mr Heseltine's article with scepticism.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "I don't think it is realistic to have an annual election for every local authority that spends more than the Government wants. It is the wooliness of the conclusions rather than the analysis that I find myself sceptical about."

And Mr Julian Brazier, Conservative MP for Canterbury, said that while he wanted changes in the poll tax, he was disappointed with Mr

Heseltine's proposals. "His article identifies a number of the concerns, but the linkage between those and the proposed solutions is tenuous to say the least - and they are not costed. There is no support for it as a package."

In the Commons, Mr Neil Kinnock asked the Prime Minister: "In view of his help to you, have you thought of putting the poll tax review in the hands of Mr Heseltine? After all one volunteer is worth ten pressed men." She replied: "You are well aware that the most unfair system of local taxation was rates."

When Mr Kinnock claimed that Mr Heseltine had backed a Labour call for annual elections, Mrs Thatcher replied: "Mr Heseltine had many good ideas in his article, which will be considered along with many others in the review of the community charge to see what modifications and adjustments are necessary." But she said structural changes to local authorities could not take place during the lifetime of the present Parliament.

She added that Mr Heseltine had been right when he said "this Conservative Government will fight and win the next election with the community charge in place", and she won cheers when - swapping footballing metaphors with Mr David Evans, Conservative MP for Weymouth and Portland - she said she would be the centre forward leading the Conservative team to victory at the next election.

Government sources made plain that the structural changes ruled out by the Prime Minister included Mr Heseltine's ideas for triggering elections for overspending councils and any move to unitary authorities. His plans for "banding" the charge so that top taxpayers would pay more were also unlikely to be adopted. Environment Department sources doubted there would be any great number of extra exemptions in line with Mr Heseltine's suggestions on the old, handicapped, student nurses and small businesses "living above the shop".

Mr David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, accused Mr Heseltine of "giving in" on the poll tax for the sake of his leadership ambitions.

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Tony Travers, page 12
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Political sketch, page 22

Dan Air jet 'only 50ft from mid-air collision'

By a Staff Reporter

A BRITISH pilot last night described how his Dan Air airliner carrying 16 passengers came "very close" to colliding with two US Air Force jets over West Germany yesterday. One report suggested the aircraft were within 50ft.

An investigation was started into the incident, near Saarbrücken, on the French-West German border. Only quick action by Captain Bob Dearing, aged 41, avoided a crash, and one passenger and a crew member were injured when he put the aircraft into a dive to avoid a collision.

The Dan-Air British turbo-

prop was on a routine scheduled flight from West Berlin to Saarbrücken. The 16 passengers are believed to have been mostly German. The airliner had been warned by a radar controller of the approach of the fighters.

Last night the US Air Force base at Bitburg in West Germany confirmed that two aircraft from the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing had been involved in a near-miss. Captain Dearing, from Sussex, said: "It was very close. I saw two F-15 aircraft coming directly towards us and at our level. They were not very far away."



Golden memories: Mr Winston Churchill, MP, grandson of the wartime leader, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, Lady Seames, Churchill's daughter, and Field Marshal Lord Bramall, at the Imperial War Museum to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Sir Winston becoming Prime Minister

'Mad cow' symptoms found in pet cat

By Michael Hornsby

A CONDITION closely resembling the fatal brain disease which has killed more than 13,000 British cattle has been diagnosed for the first time in a domestic cat, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food disclosed yesterday.

It is not yet known how the cat, a five-year-old neutered male Siamese, became infected, or whether this feline form of the disease, known as Spongiform Encephalopathy (SE), can be transmitted between different species. Scientists are investigating whether it can be passed to laboratory mice.

Mr Keith Meldrum, the government's chief veterinary officer, said: "There is no need for pet owners to change their pet food or to consider putting their cats down. The risk to man is no greater than it was before the diagnosis."

A human form of the condition, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), kills about 30 people a year in England; there is, however, no evidence that the incidence of CJD, which occurs in about one in every two million people, is in any way related to the presence of Spongiform Encephalopathy in other animals.

Mr Meldrum said the cat had been referred to Bristol University's veterinary school by a local veterinary surgeon after it showed nervous symptoms and unsteadiness on its feet and failed to respond to treatment.

A post-mortem examination of the cat, which was put down on April 6, revealed "typical lesions of Spongiform Encephalopathy". Mr Meldrum said: "Such findings have not been reported previously in domestic cats at this stage, this is the only known case in the seven million cats in Britain."

The cat was apparently fed a wide range of pet food. There are four other cats and four dogs in the same household. All are said to be healthy.

6,500 jobs will be cut in efficiency drives

By Stephen Leather

MORE than 6,500 jobs are to be lost in a round of industrial cuts announced yesterday as three of Britain's biggest companies aim to become more competitive.

British Telecom is to slash up to 5,000 jobs, mainly middle managers, which will save about £100 million a year. The cigarette giant, Imperial Tobacco, the Hanson subsidiary whose brands include Regal, Embassy, John Player and Lambert & Butler, is cutting 1,240 jobs. Grand Metropolitan's wine and spirits subsidiary, International Distillers and Vintners, is cutting its workforce by 400 as it modernizes production facilities.

The British Telecom cuts follow the group's decision to split the company into two new divisions serving residential and business customers. Mr Iain Vallance, the chairman, said: "This is much

more than a change in organization. We are setting out to change the way we work. We want to understand our customers' needs, and respond quickly to them."

The Society of Telecom Executives, which represents 30,000 of the 40,000 BT managers, said: "We are seeking discussions with BT. We have only heard the details today and are considering them ourselves."

Imperial Tobacco cuts are the result of a £40 million investment in state-of-the-art cigar and cigarette-making machines up to 10 times as efficient as the old equipment. The firm, preparing for an influx of cheap European cigarettes in 1992, also faces a tax change based on the cost of cigarettes rather than the number. With about 35 per cent of the market, it sells 33 billion cigarettes and 400 million cigars a year. It is to close

Lockerbie families share £7m

By Lin Jenkins

RELATIVES of the 11 people killed on the ground in the 1988 Lockerbie disaster, or those who suffered injury or damage to property, have reached an out-of-court settlement with Pan Am believed to be more than £7 million.

The deal affects 250 Scottish families. But Mr Peter Watson, secretary of the Lockerbie Air Disaster Group, said: "Details of the names of claimants, the number of cases involved and the amount of compensation paid are to remain confidential."

The claims, brought in the United States, where they were filed before the Florida State Court in Miami, are the first relating to the disaster to be settled. Still pending are the claims arising from the deaths of 259 passengers and crew, which are also filed before the Florida State Court.

Details, page 23
Stock market, page 28

Bearing the cross, page 18

EC and Tehran to discuss hostages

By Michael Binyon, Brussels, and Andrew McEwen

SENIOR officials from Iran and the European Community will meet in Dublin next week to discuss the release of hostages in Lebanon and how EC-Iranian relations can be improved after the damage done by Iran's call for the death of Mr Salman Rushdie.

The meeting comes in response to overtures by Iran six weeks ago. Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, wrote to Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, his Iranian counterpart, expressing hopes that the meeting could "play an effective role in the expansion and improvement of EC relations with Iran". Britain raised no objection, with the Government undoubtedly curious to hear what Tehran may have in mind.

The EC will be represented by senior Foreign Ministry

officials from Ireland, currently holding the presidency of the Community, and France and Italy, the former and future presidents. Iran will be represented by senior diplomats.

An Irish spokesman in Brussels said his country intended to bring up the question of hostages as a priority. Ireland is making intensive efforts to secure the release of Mr Brian Keenan, the hostage who holds an Irish passport. But the EC officials will tell the Iranians that a substantial improvement in relations is only possible if all the Western hostages are released.

If the Iranians ask for improved trade terms with the Community it seems likely that Britain will ask its EC partners to exact a price. This

Continued on page 22, col 6

INSIDE

Inflation rate fear

The annual inflation rate is expected to be just below 10 per cent when the April figures are published today. The surge from an annual 8.1 per cent in March, is in part due to the poll tax and is likely to provoke fresh criticism of the Government.

The Bank of England yesterday issued a clear warning to the Government that the inflation picture was worse than previously believed, underlining that this precluded any chances of an early cut in interest rates. Page 23

Police hunt

Detectives from up to 12 police forces are to hold an emergency conference to co-ordinate their hunt for bogus social and health workers who try to examine children. Page 3

MI6 man dies

Mr George Young, a former senior MI6 officer who helped to mastermind a secret operation in 1953 to overthrow Dr Mohammed Mossadeq, then the Iranian prime minister, has died after a long illness at the age of 79.

Obituary, page 14

Phone probe

The EC is to investigate international telephone charges to see whether telecommunications authorities run a cartel preventing competition. Page 26

Scotland win

Scotland's cricketers beat Northamptonshire by two runs in a group match of the Benson and Hedges Cup yesterday. Page 42

Geoffrey Green

Geoffrey Green, the former Association Football correspondent of *The Times* and a contributor to the paper for almost 40 years, has died at the age of 78. Page 44

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High achiever follows in father's footsteps

By Our Foreign Staff

THIRTY-seven years after Sir Edmund Hillary conquered Mount Everest, his son Peter yesterday successfully scaled the world's tallest peak - the first time two members of the same family have reached the summit.

Peter, who was not even born when his father made history in 1953, contacted Sir Edmund from the summit by satellite telephone. "It's been a bit of a struggle over the years, but we're thrilled to bits that you're finally standing on top of the old mountain," Sir Edmund told his son from Auckland.

Sir Edmund made mountaineering history on May 29,

1953, when he reached the summit of the 29,028 ft high peak with his Nepalese guide, Mr Tenzing Norgay. His son, who was accompanied by two fellow New Zealanders, Mr Robert Hall and Mr Gary Ball, and a Sherpa guide, Mr Apa Sherpa, followed the same south-eastern route for his successful ascent.

"Congratulations to you all. I think everybody here is delighted at your success," said Sir Edmund in a conversation broadcast live on Radio New Zealand. Peter, aged 36, who had tried and failed to climb Everest on three earlier occasions, set out early in the morning from his final camp in perfect

climbing conditions. The group was expected to make its descent down to the South Col camp about 1,100 yards below the summit.

Sir Edmund was created a Knight of the British Empire for his exploit four decades ago. His wife and daughter were killed in a plane crash in Nepal in 1975. Sir Edmund was made New Zealand High Commissioner to India and New Zealand Ambassador to Nepal in 1984.

In another successful attempt on Everest this week, a record 14 climbers in a US, Soviet and Chinese "international peace climb" team reached the summit, organizers said in Seattle.



Sir Edmund Hillary: Thrilled at son's success

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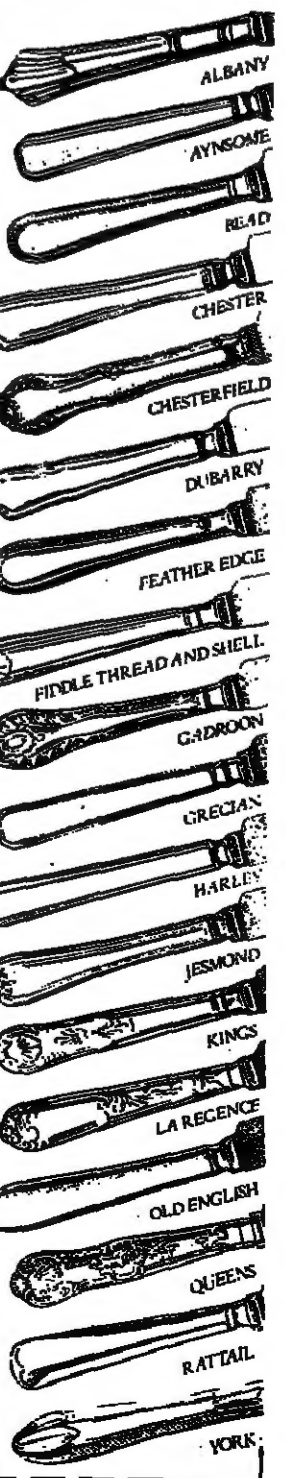
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Sellafield in strike threat over clean-up and compensation

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

LEADERS of 2,500 workers at the Sellafield nuclear plant yesterday threatened to take "whatever action necessary" if British Nuclear Fuels did not respond to their demands for a thorough "clean-up" of the site and compensation for child leukaemia victims. It could mean a boycott of the older part of the site if the workers feel the company is not moving quickly enough to satisfy their concerns.

The threat of industrial action came after Dr Barry Lambert, senior lecturer in radiation biology at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, University of London, visited the site to talk to 200 union representatives about his interpretation of the Gardner report on leukaemia.

In his report, Professor Martin Gardner, of Southampton University, suggested that radiation could have affected the sperm of men working at Sellafield, possibly introducing a gene mutation. Their children, his study said, would have been born with a higher than average risk of developing cancer.

There was uproar when Dr

Roger Berry, director of health and safety at the Cumbrian plant, owned by British Nuclear Fuels, suggested that workers who feared their children may develop cancer might be advised not to have a family. His remarks were disowned by the company.

Dr Lambert, who had been commissioned to prepare a report by the GMB, the largest union on the site, said: "We have to take the Gardner findings seriously. There is now added weight to lean on the employers for dose limits to be reduced and so reduce the risk. Even if Gardner is only half right the sensible thing to do is to explain the report in a straightforward and non-sensational language, so that workers at the plant are receiving clear and useful advice."

"The best way to react is to limit exposure levels for radiation workers to as low a level as possible. Science and risk assessment suggest an annual constraint to 10msv (a measurement of radiation) should be agreed as soon as possible." At present, the plant works to 15msv and talks are taking place with the unions to

achieve the 10msv level.

Mr Eddie Newall, the union's national industrial officer, said: "We cannot afford to wait around until the results of further studies are known. We must now assume Gardner has got it right and insist that improvements are made as soon as possible. We want a far safer environment."

● The Winfrith nuclear reactor in Dorset is to be shut down in March 1992 with the loss of 450 jobs, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority announced yesterday (Nick Nutall writes). A spokesman said the costs of maintaining the heavy water reactor, which was built in the 1950s, beyond 1992 had become prohibitive.

● Union leaders representing more than 600,000 construction workers yesterday turned down an improved 9.58 per cent pay offer, raising Government fears of a further tranche of wage-led inflation. To add to the concerns, leaders of 20,000 London Underground workers are today likely to sanction a strike ballot after their rejection of the "final" 9.3 per cent pay offer.



Flight Lieutenants Julie Gibson, left, and Sally Cox, known as Jim and Sid to male trainees, on the Provost flightline at RAF Linton-on-Ouse yesterday after becoming the first women in the RAF to fly solo on jet aircraft

Thatcher concern on tunnel safety

By Mark Souster

WORK on the Channel Tunnel was suspended for the third day running yesterday as the Prime Minister reiterated in the Commons the Government's concern at the safety record of the project.

Mr Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for Employment, also made clear his fears over safety in emergency talks with Trans-Manche Link (TML).

During the meeting with Mr Jack Lemley, the chief executive of TML, Mr Howard emphasized that responsibility for safety ultimately rested with TML management and sought assurances that TML intended to give priority to safety.

Mr Lemley admitted that not enough had been done. He said all working practices were to be re-examined, and the results of an internal audit of safety arrangements would be given to the Health and Safety Executive, which was carrying out its own audit.

Mr Howard hinted that TML could face further prosecutions by the executive if safety standards were not maintained. During angry exchanges in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher ignored a Labour demand for mandatory jail sentences against Channel Tunnel employers whose negligence led to the death or serious injury of workers. She said the (most recent) accident was deeply regretted and extended her sympathies to the relatives of the bereaved.

Mr David Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South-east, who made the demand, also called for emergency legislation to stop the "carnage" on the site, which is "almost costing a man a mile". Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet South, said an early debate on the "safety crisis" in the tunnel was necessary; it was scandalous that it had taken "six unnecessary deaths" before the TML management "got a carpeting for their deplorable safety standards".

Mr Tony Blair, shadow employment spokesman, tabled amendments to the employment Bill, due to be debated next Thursday, to prevent employees facing dismissal if they refused to do work which was a serious health and safety hazard.

Mr Blair said it was pointless Mr Howard discussing the tragedies with TML if he was not prepared to amend legislation. Employees needed greater protection, he said, and employers needed to know that health and safety transgressions would be severely punished.

Meanwhile, at the site, the two main marine tunnels remained closed for the third day running as health and safety executive inspectors continued their investigations into the death of Mr William Cartman, from Tyne and Wear, the sixth British worker to die on the project. The stoppage, enforced by an Health and Safety Executive prohibition notice, is estimated to be costing TML £2 million a day.

Workers have blamed the accident rate at the site on the need for speed and they allege corners have been cut to meet deadlines. One said anyone who complained about poor safety was moved off the main construction site.

Since construction began on 1987 the cost has risen from under £5 billion to £7.5 billion. Mr George Henderson of the Transport and General Workers' Union said the commercial pressures were too great. Eurotunnel wanted "a Rolls Royce project for the price of a mini".

Poll tax capping delayed

By Ray Clancy

THE Government was prevented yesterday from carrying out its decision to cap a council community charge until after next month's test case on the legality of the capping procedure.

The Department of the Environment said it was considering "an immediate appeal" against a direction from Mr Justice Roch in the High Court that the capping procedure against Doncaster Metropolitan Borough should not start until after the judicial review involving 20 of the 21 capped councils expected to be heard in mid-June.

The decision is likely to pave the way for the other 19 authorities taking part in the "umbrella" court action, which challenges the criteria used by Mr Patten to single them out for capping.

The judge gave the direction at Doncaster council's request and rejected a submission on behalf of Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, that he had no jurisdiction to do so. He said "an administrative nightmare" might result if capping took place before the courts' view on the legality of Mr Patten's action was known.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, who represented Doncaster, asked the judge to direct that the leave given to Doncaster last month for judicial review should operate as a "stay" on the parliamentary and administrative procedures which had to be gone through for the capping to take effect.

Mr Henderson said Mr Patten was "not minded in any way to stay his hand" and wanted to proceed, before the court hearing, to make an order requiring Doncaster to re-calculate its budget and reduce its net expenditure from £190 million to £178.5 million.

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Bruegel recovered after eight years

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

A POLICE investigation involving Scotland Yard's reformed art and antiques branch has recovered a painting worth between £2 million and £3 million, which was stolen from the Courtauld Galleries eight years ago.

It was recovered at a house in Kent weeks before the collection is due to reopen at Somerset House in London.

"Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery", by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, was taken from the wall of the former galleries in Woburn Square in 1982. Gallery warders gave chase but were outpaced by the two young men who had committed the robbery.

The discovery is understood to have been made after investigations by the arts and antiques branch of the International and Organised Crime Squad. The branch was formed only a year ago after the disbandment of the former art and antiques squad caused an outcry in the art trade. The recovery of the Bruegel is their most spectacular success to date. "The painting's return could hardly be more timely"

said Dr Dennis Farr, director of the galleries.

"The collection is due to reopen in its new home in the Fine Rooms of Somerset House on June 15, and we will be able to show the Bruegel. It is in fabulous condition. There were only a few marks on the frame."

Bruegel painted the picture, a signed and dated *grisaille* work which is very rare in his output, in 1565. It came to England in the 18th century, and was acquired in 1952 by Count Antoine Seilern who bequeathed it to the Courtauld in 1978 as part of the Princes Gate Collection.

At the time of its theft the value of the painting was put at £420,000, but it is now estimated at between £2 million and £3 million.

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By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Judge jo unrest i

Gareth Lloyd Jones, aged 40, a civil servant who suf-

School

**Mr Jeff Prett, of Steinway
Tuners' Association conveys**

y, (at the keyboard) showing two
vention near Colchester the fine

Two tuners at the Pianoforte
at points of a concert grand

By Lin Jenkins and Peter Davenport

Social Security if a uniform identity card could be introduced nationwide. "Each area has something which looks a little different, so we

A GUNMAN who shot and badly wounded a man in a courtroom yesterday was disarmed and held by two dustmen, but escaped when a soli-

A GUNMAN who shot and badly wounded a man in a courtroom yesterday was disarmed and held by two dustmen, but escaped when a soli-

have attended the court hearing with his girl friend, who was applying for a restraining order against another man.

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

The move, requested by Lord Justice Woolf, strengthens the hand of the inquiry, which will now virtually enjoys the authority of a Royal

ber of inmates being held in police custody was climbing towards 1,000. Yesterday, 239 inmates were in the custody of the Metropolitan Police, while

By Lin Jenkins

each on three charges of auto-unmuzzled, ferocious dog to be Mrs Brown, who had denied the was also ordered to pay £900 co-tion, ranging in sums from £40 to the boys who had been injured.

Another 11-year-old boy was attacked by all three dogs and sustained "serious injuries" to his arms and elbows.

old was attacked by
suffered "the most
o his head, neck,

into force last August, allows logs to be destroyed by a person ordered by the court.

Salford home to a man and a woman posing as social workers. They showed her a brown plastic identity card bearing a photograph and said they were checking children in the area

Mr Bill Grimmins and Mr Peter Cooper, two rubbish collectors, thrust a bin into his path, grappled with and disarmed him, only to be told to let him go by the solicitor.

By Robin Young

train in 1963, supported Mr Robert Welch, the Islington night club owner who was sentenced to 30 years for his part in his robbery and now walks on crutches. Mr Reyn-

attempt to construct a detailed factual picture of the April jail riots and the second would seek to pinpoint underlying causes. At a preliminary pub-

Mr John Roberts, a coroner in South Buckinghamshire, ordered the exhumation after the Metropolitan Police supplied new information about the case.

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By Ruth Gledhill

way round the garden. Luckily he eats weeds mostly, but if there is a rare plant he will sit on it. He buries himself to hibernate every October or November and comes out in March. He shows no fear. He is as merry as a cricket.



A snack for Timothy at Powderham

The trade in tortoises started in 1899 and was banned in 1983, by which time more than 10 million had been trans-

According to family legend, the tortoise was a mascot on a Royal Navy ship in the Mediterranean. Records show that a distant cousin, Edward Rutherford, gave the tortoise to Lord Devon's grandfather, John Silva, when the ship was sent to Antarctica. In 1926 the 14th Earl, Lord Charles Courtenay, an inspec-

"He has had various adventures. He once got drunk when he over-ate o

ported to Britain. Most died soon after they arrived, killed by ignorance, cold weather and bad husbandry. The Zoological Society of London said the oldest recorded tortoise had lived to 152 years. Miss Maria Morgan, deputy editor of the living world section, said: "Timothy could quite possibly be one of the oldest creatures in the world".

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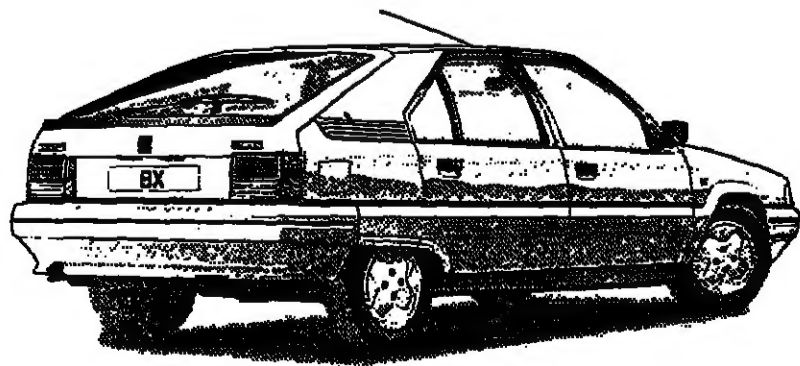
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Initial Payment (20% Deposit)	£1,685.22	£1,685.22	£1,685.22	£1,685.22
Monthly Payments of	£561.89	£302.75	£225.99	£184.80
Finance Charge	NIL	£535.72	£1,405.36	£2,140.12
Total Payable	£8,425.50	£8,967.22†	£9,830.86†	£10,565.62†

Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. A guarantee may be required. Full written quotations are available on request.† All finance offers are subject to credit acceptance, vehicle availability and relate to credit transactions completed before 31 May 1990. †Including a £10 acceptance fee payable with the first instalment.

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Official charged

Case dismissed

Chess battles

London dealer criticizes 'greed' of New York auction houses

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A LEADING London dealer in contemporary art has attacked what he calls the "greed and stupidity" of the auction houses in New York after a sobering series of auctions there this week. Mr Leslie Waddington said that the houses had themselves to blame for the downturn in the market.

Twenty-six out of 77 works failed to sell at Christie's main sale and 32 out of 87 at Sotheby's, while many works fetched prices well below their stated estimates. In spite of the battering, Mr Waddington insisted that the market was

strong. The \$55.87 million (£33.45 million) total at Sotheby's represents more than the total for all New York contemporary art sales in 1987. The price paid for a painting by Francis Bacon was close to the highest ever.

"There isn't as much speculation but US dealers are doing very good business," he said. Mr Waddington added: "When I got my catalogues five weeks ago, I said 'this looks like insanity'. The estimates were 50 per cent above my retail prices. We have a lot of amateurs over-estimating pictures at a time when there has been a tightening of money."

He blames Sotheby's most of all, with

Christie's to a lesser extent. "You can't assume that if one painting fetched \$10 million last time, that it will fetch \$12 million this time," he said.

From 1984 to 1989, the hurried, dribbled and scumbled creations that comprise this market suddenly became a kind of global currency, increasing 20-fold in price. Buying fever climaxed last November when Mr Shigeaki Kameyama, a Japanese dealer, bid \$20.7 million for Willem de Kooning's painting "Interchange", and Mr S.I. Newhouse, the American publishing tycoon, bought John's "False Start" for \$17.1 million after a bidding battle with

the Swedish property developer Mr Hans Thulin.

Mr Waddington also blamed the problem on the aggressive rivalry between Sotheby's and Christie's when pitching for sales. "They are going to have to learn there shouldn't be an auction before the auction," he said, referring to the scenario when one agent, knowing the prices estimated by the other, feigns confidence that he can sell it for more, in order to secure the business. He also spoke of "yuppy" buyers, who had no sense of quality, only of investment. After the main Sotheby's sale, the company's contemporary art

expert, Miss Lucy Mitchell-Innes, said "expectations among collectors have got a little ahead of themselves".

Another theory for the cooling is ironic, as it entails Sotheby's upstaging itself. According to this, the eight or nine dealers in 20th century art were holding back in the hope of negotiating for some of the 2,600 paintings from the eminent Pierre Matisse Gallery. By artists such as Miro, Dubuffet and Chagall, the stock was bought from the gallery for an estimated \$300 million by the New York dealer Mr William Acquavella. He is backed by Sotheby's.

The fear is that the hysterical over-

reaction to the auctions will become a self-fulfilling prophecy, spilling over to the nervous Impressionist market, due to be tested next week. The "buzz" over the last year or so had been over "contemporary" art was taking over from Impressionism as the commodity for the chic. No one appeared to care that their investment might also be judged unfavourably by posterity.

Now there are fears that whatever is left of disposable incomes in America, Europe and Japan, is being held back, while buyers wait and see.

A knock-down is nigh, page 16

Haemophilia treatment recalled over hepatitis risk

By Thomson Prentice and Jill Sherman

THOUSANDS of doses of blood products for haemophiliacs were recalled yesterday after an alert that they could be contaminated with the hepatitis B virus.

The move coincides with a warning in today's issue of *The Lancet* that many of Britain's 5,000 haemophiliacs are at risk of developing chronic liver disease from similar products infected with hepatitis C virus, another form of the disease. Experts writing in the journal say there is an urgent need to eliminate hepatitis C virus from blood-clotting factors.

The Haemophilia Society endorsed the call yesterday and said it was "deeply concerned" both by the new evidence and the alert over the contaminated batch, produced by Bio Products Laboratory at Elstree, Hertfordshire. The laboratory, the main supplier of health service blood products, said the batch was of Factor 8 and Factor 9, for haemophiliacs, and albumin, used for trauma patients. It emphasized that the risk of patients developing hepatitis was "unbelievably small". However, Mr David Watters, secretary of the Haemophilia Society, said last night that he knew of one patient who had developed antibodies to hepatitis C, apparently from the suspect material.

Patients supplied with the products, which are routinely heat-treated and screened to destroy hepatitis B virus, have been asked to return the doses.

Thieves hit nests of rare birds

In spite of an increase in surveillance, thefts of rare birds' eggs were still alarmingly widespread, the Royal Society of Birds said yesterday (John Young writes).

This spring, three osprey nests had been robbed in Scotland and three golden eagle nests were known to have been robbed. In Wales there was concern about red kites, six of whose nests had been robbed, representing perhaps as much as a fifth of the breeding population. Peregrine falcons' eggs had been taken from at least six nests in Scotland and three in Wales.

Mr Keith Morton, an RSPB investigations officer, said the society was asking the Government to introduce more effective penalties.

For the second year running startlings are Britain's most common garden birds, according to a survey by nearly 5,000 members of the Young Ornithologists' Club, the society's junior section.

Bus hijacked

A gunman hijacked a minibus carrying a pool team shortly after midnight yesterday when he crashed a car while being chased by police at Basildon, in Essex. The man escaped after taking the eight people in the bus for a five-minute ride.

Official charged

A former senior Treasury official has been charged in a travel expenses case. Magistrates at Horseferry Road set unconditional bail until June 7 for Carole Hall, aged 40, who is charged with obtaining £226.33 by deception.

Case dismissed

An assault charge against Captain Brian Fanshawe, master of the Cottesmore Hunt in Leicestershire, was dismissed when the alleged victim failed to appear at court.

Chess battles

The new cycle for the world chess championship has begun at the British Isles zonal qualifying tournament in Blackpool. The first round saw the favourites, including Adams, the British champion, emerge as winners.



The RAF's Falcons parachute team defy rain, low cloud and engine problems yesterday to celebrate 25 years of thrilling the crowds with their parachute displays. After an hour's delay they jumped, above, from a Hercules aircraft over central London and with red and white smoke trailing behind them landed neatly in front of the Tower of London, right. The 12-man team has an outstanding reputation, but yesterday's jump was not one of the easiest. Flight Lieutenant Chris Heathershaw, team leader, said: "This was quite a pressure jump. Our display tested us to the limit." The team will perform nearly 100 displays in Britain during its anniversary year with more in Italy, Belgium, Singapore, the US and New Zealand.

Lords ruling guarantees status of common land

By John Young

CAMPAIGNERS for the continuation of historic rights of access to common land won a notable victory yesterday when the House of Lords overturned a High Court ruling that a landowner was entitled to deregister the land after selling his title of lord of the manor.

The decision effectively removes one threat to the estimated 900,000 acres of common land in England and 450,000 acres in Wales. However, campaigners were quick to point out that a single decision on one specific issue did not provide a safeguard from other threats such as

ploughing, fencing and development, which required urgent legislation.

The Open Spaces Society said the ruling would set a precedent for a number of similar applications, which could now be expected to be set aside. A similar ruling 10 years ago would have prevented the loss of some 50 commons that had been deregistered since a Court of Appeal decision in 1980. The Ramblers' Association welcomed the decision.

In a unanimous decision, the Law Lords allowed an appeal by Hampshire County Council against a judge's de-

cision that Sir Anthony Milburn, of Guyzance Hall, Ackington, Northumberland, could apply to cancel the registration of two commons after disposing of the title. Lord Templeman said a victory by Sir Anthony would have made a nonsense of the Commons Registration Act, 1965, and would have defeated the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Common Land, which were aimed at preserving "the last reserve of uncommitted land in England and Wales" for the benefit of the public.

Sir Anthony sold the lordships of the manors of Putham and Hazell, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, in November 1981, but retained ownership of 338 acres of Hazell Heath and 27 acres of Mattingley Green, which were registered as common land.

He had reasoned that, if the land were removed from the register, it would become more valuable. He had argued that it had ceased to be "waste land of a manor", under the old manorial system inherited from the Normans, since it no longer belonged to the lord of the manor.

However, Lord Templeman observed that the only reason for the land becoming more valuable would be that it had ceased to retain common access. Parliament could not have intended that such land should be taken off the register as soon as the lordship of the manor was sold separately.

"It is impossible to read the report of the royal commission without reaching the conclusion that Parliament intended to prevent waste land ceasing to be common land, so that existing public rights of access would be preserved, and so that provision could be made in future for public access to be granted," he said.

Law Report, page 38

Test-tube babies' high mortality rate

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

TEST-TUBE babies have been three times more likely to die soon after birth, and more at risk of immediate health problems, than infants conceived naturally, according to a nine-year study published today.

The main hazard to the babies has been the increased dangers of premature delivery and low birthweight associated with the high number of multiple births resulting from in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) treatment.

The Medical Research Council study in today's issue of the *British Medical Journal* found that one in four of the deliveries was multiple, compared with an average of one in 80 in England and Wales.

Among 1,581 births that were studied, 19 per cent were twins and 4 per cent were triplets or quadruplets. The high incidence has been due to doctors transferring into their patients four or more embryos

to improve the chances of a single pregnancy. Infertility clinics now adhere to guidelines that only two, and in exceptional cases, three embryos, should be transferred.

"The number of multiple births arising from assisted conception is likely to be reduced," the authors of the study said yesterday.

Premature deliveries and low birthweights were about four times more common among the babies than the national average but congenital malformations detected in the first week of life were about the average.

The authors of the study said yesterday that their findings showed that test-tube baby techniques were generally safe and that the benefits to infertile couples far outweighed the hazards.

The average age of the mothers in the study was almost 34 years, compared to the average in England and Wales of almost 29 years.



Mr Watters: Accusing ministry of complacency

Style and wit triumph over hard sell in TV advertising

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

TELEVISION viewers appreciate commercials more than ever before, according to research published yesterday.

Gone are the days when advertising agencies were regarded as unscrupulous manipulators treating people as mindless dupes to make them buy the latest gadget. Today's consumer understands marketing jargon, but is discerning about what a commercial says and how it is made.

Viewers watch up to 200 commercials a week on average, according to the survey conducted by The Research

Business for the Leo Burnett advertising agency. Wit and originality impress audiences rather than "hard sell" techniques.

George Cole, best known as Arthur Daley of *Minder*, was particularly praised for his performance on Leeds Building Society commercials by a panel of 50 middle-range households which kept a viewing diary last October. Other commercials mentioned were for Carling Black Label, PG Tips, Andrex, Pernier, Persil and Hush Puppies.

Although a record 81 per

cent of people now "totally approve" of television advertising, they do not like to be hectored, talked down to, or cheated. "Respondents were happy to go along with the selling process, only if the message appeared relevant, well executed and eye-catching," the survey said.

The viewers' panel was balanced by 30 marketing experts. "Their responses were quickly shown to be virtually indistinguishable, with marketing jargon now an established part of consumers' vocabulary."

Labour will break up Murdoch group

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A LABOUR government will break up the media group in Britain controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch and introduce a statutory right of privacy and reply, Mr Neil Kinnock says in a television interview to be broadcast this evening.

The reaffirmation by the Labour leader that News International would be split up was made hours before the Commons rejected an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill which could have limited the group's stake in Sky Television to 20 per cent.

The Bill contains reserve powers which allow the Home Secretary to change cross-media ownership rules and would enable a Labour administration to break up the group. News International publishes *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Today*, while its subsidiaries include Times Newspapers, publishers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, and Sky Television.

Mr Kinnock, interviewed for Channel 4's *Hard News*, suggests that legislation, based on US laws, is required to limit concentration of ownership. He says: "There is a problem with the concentration of ownership, especially when you have got a proprietor with a strong proprietorial sense; consequently, not for our use or our good as a party. But I think for the fair transmission of information in use to millions of people, it is necessary to see that there is less of an oligarchy in our newspapers."

"The best model so far, and we are testing this, is the one offered by the US legislation that imposes statutory limitation on proportions of ownership of a particular media outlet, whether it is television or radio or newspapers."

With the Calcutt committee report on privacy due soon, Mr Kinnock commits his party to an enforceable right of privacy and right of reply.

InterCity tickets ring the changes

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

BRITISH Rail yesterday unveiled a series of wide-ranging changes to InterCity standard-class return tickets, including new brand names, reduced travel restrictions and colour-coded timetables, all effective from Sunday.

The changes come at the same time as the seasonal price adjustments, which are designed to take advantage of increased demand for leisure travel. These put about £2 on most discounted tickets and will be withdrawn in October when demand falls.

Under the new ticket structure, the discounted Blue and White Saver tickets are to be replaced with Saver and Supersaver tickets on core routes of the passenger network.

Saver tickets, which are cheaper than the current full-price standard tickets, will be available on a wide range of outward journeys, and will have no restrictions on return travel, unlike the existing White Saver tickets.

Supersaver tickets, the cheapest return ticket available, will be valid on most off-peak trains, excluding Fridays and other peak travel days, and will have less restrictions on return journeys than existing Blue Saver tickets. Open Return tickets, designed for business travel, will replace the full-price standard return ticket.

Ticket colour codes will be also used in all new timetables and promotional literature, with red indicating Open Return services, white indicating Saver services, and blue showing Supersaver services.

Where InterCity trains pick up local traffic in both provincial and Network SouthEast areas, the existing cheap day returns and travel cards will still be valid for any journey of less than 50 miles.

Mr Robert Mason, InterCity's marketing director, described the changes as the "biggest shake-up of ticket types for many years", which had been designed to make travel on InterCity more flexible and easier to understand.

Train and price information will be available at the point of sale enabling passengers instantly to identify which colour tickets are valid on what trains. Mr Mason said the new ticket structure had been made as "simple and understandable as possible" to encourage people to travel on less busy trains.

"Clearly we have to have a structure which differentiates between one customer travelling to London in the morning peak hour and another travelling across the country in the middle of the day. Our objective has been to make the rules as clear as possible," he said.

Legislation to install a national network of video cameras to catch motorists jumping red lights could be implemented in the autumn, Mr Robert Atkins, the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

The video cameras would be installed at thousands of busy traffic light junctions around the country, and would be able to photograph the number plates of vehicles failing to stop at red lights. Police corroboration is required to secure a conviction, and a legislative change would be needed to convict motorists on the basis of photographs alone, Mr Atkins said.

The perils and pitfalls of percentages

By Robin Young

READERS of *The Times* understand percentages better than readers of any other national newspaper, yet if I wrote that only 45 per cent of *The Sun* readers realize that four in ten is the same as 40 per cent (which is true), I would be leaving 13 per cent of you in the dark.

For the comfort of those who may be confused, I should obviously reassure them that 13 per cent is more than one in eight, so they are by no means alone. The research organization Public Attitude Surveys conducted an experiment asking 1,834 people aged 15 and over to identify the meaning of "40 per cent".

The organization undertook the task because its concern was aroused after it had found, in a survey for the Office of Fair Trading, that well over half of credit users had no idea what APR (or annual

percentage rate) meant in relation to a loan.

In the survey, respondents were given a choice between "one in 25", "a quarter", "one in 40" and "four in ten" and only 53 per cent (that is just over half) got it right.

Fourteen per cent (just over one in seven) guessed it was "one in 40". Ten per cent (a tenth) thought 40 per cent was a quarter, and five per cent (a twentieth) reckoned it was "one in 25".

When the question was posed a second time in simpler form, offering a choice between "40 in every 100", "one fortieth", "40 in every 1,000" and "multiplied by 40", 69 per cent (that is more than two-thirds) got the answer correct by choosing the first option.

That still left 6 per cent (almost one in 17) who believed that 40 per cent was a fortieth; 5 per cent (one in 20) who

laboured under the delusion that it was 40 in every 1,000; and 4 per cent (one in 25) who mistakenly supposed that it meant "multiplied by 40".

Happily, 97 per cent of *Times* readers (that is all but three in a hundred) recognized that 40 per cent was the same as 40 in every 100. Only 87 per cent had recognized that 40 per cent was also "four in ten" - which means that 13 in 100 *Times* readers failed that test. But both those scores were better than those for readers of any other newspaper.

The runners-up were *The Guardian* (only one twentieth of their readers - that is 5 per cent - did not know that 40 per cent was also 40 in every 100), followed by *Financial Times*. Surprisingly 11 per cent of that statistic-ridden sheet's readers (more than one in ten) had not yet grasped that 40 per cent is just another way of expressing 40 in 100.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE/ABERDEEN

Doubts grow over Rifkind's future as split deepens

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday challenged his critics to show themselves as a damaging split between the right and left factions of the Scottish Conservative Party emerged at the start of its annual conference.

The split, the subject of continued gossip since last summer, was blown into the open as the conference opened in Aberdeen, with criticism of Mr Rifkind, and the possibility that Mrs Margaret Thatcher may be contemplating his removal from office, becoming the main topic of conversation. The issue forced the Prime Minister to mount an immediate rescue operation on Mr Rifkind's behalf in the House of Commons where she said he was one of the best secretaries of state Scotland ever had.

A report carried in two Scottish newspapers, however, hinted that the Prime Minister may replace Mr Rifkind with Mr Michael Forsyth, the Scottish party chairman. It also suggested that Mr Rifkind may be given an alternative Cabinet post.

Before the conference began, Mr Rifkind said: "If people have views to express, then let them have the guts to come forward. They have three days at this conference to express their views if they so wish."

At the centre of the dispute was Mr Bill Walker, MP for Tayside North, a right-winger

Reports by Kerry Gill and Nicholas Wood

who, although not quoted, spent most of the morning attempting to distance himself from the story. When pressed on his views, he said: "Of course I want Michael Forsyth to be Secretary of State because that would mean that both he and Mr Rifkind would be in the Cabinet and that would be good for Scotland. A grain of truth has been blown up out of all proportion."

Mr Walker, clearly uncomfortable, dismissed as "misinformation" suggestions that he would ever be disloyal to the Prime Minister, Mr Rifkind or Mr Forsyth. "It is about time we as a party closed ranks and settled with the enemy, not ourselves," he told the conference during a debate on the poll tax.

Mr Rifkind said later that he wished Mr Walker, the vice-chairman of the party in Scotland, had made his views known to him personally rather than through the media. "If Bill Walker made various remarks to the press then I just wish he would say them to me as well. It would be quite useful for your colleagues to do that. He quite rightly called for unity - it is a very important principle."

The Secretary of State's position has been in doubt since the Budget debate when he failed to warn the Cabinet that there would be a furious dispute over community

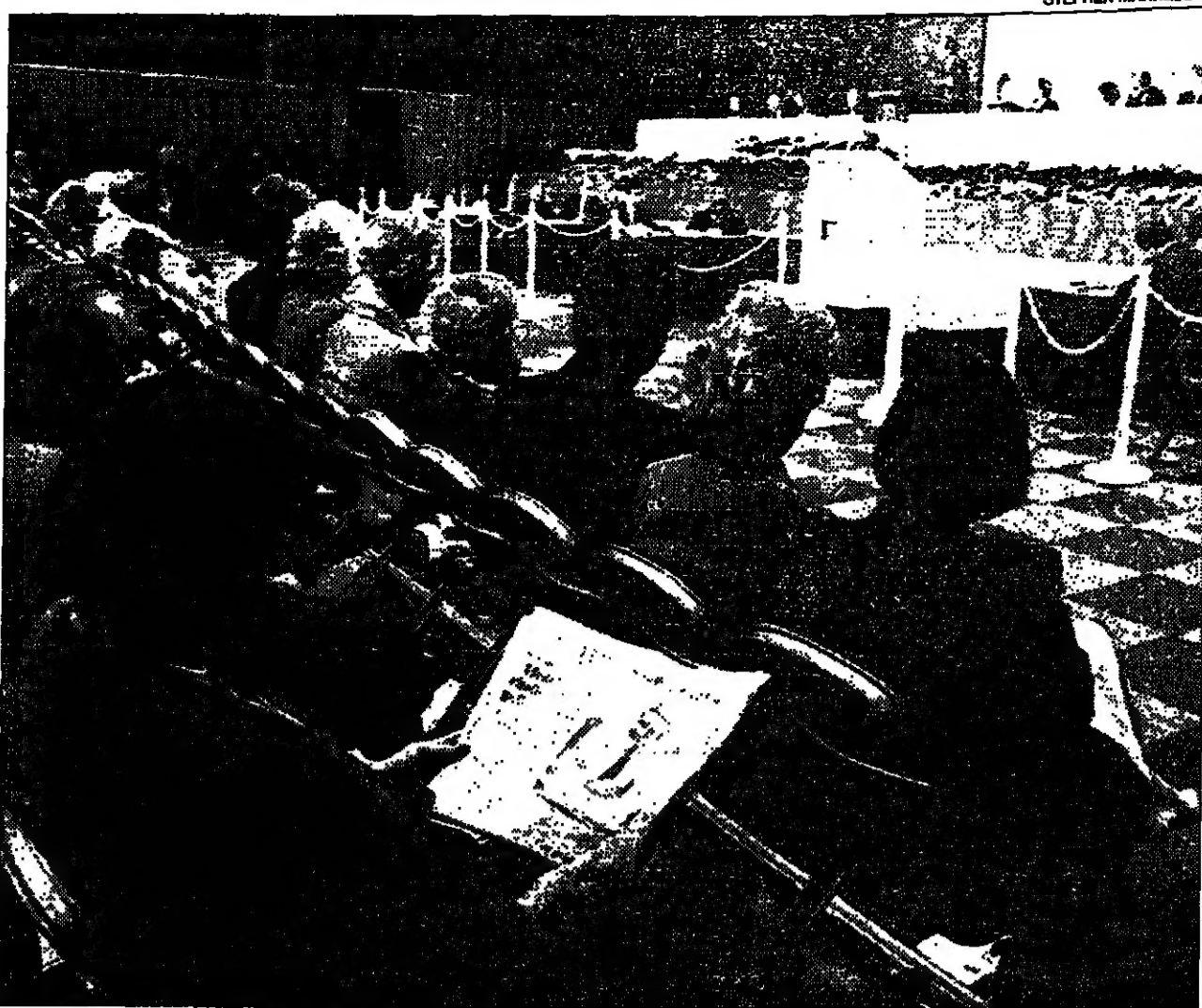
charge concessions being offered to the English but not being made retrospective for the Scots.

Within two days of the Budget announcement, Mr Rifkind was forced to announce that he was providing £4 million from the Scottish Office budget to make the measure retrospective after all. Mr Rifkind is believed to have offered his resignation to Mrs Thatcher because of his failure to warn the Cabinet over the issue.

Mr Rifkind also came in for sharp criticism when he attacked Mr Bruce Millan, one of Britain's European commissioners, because of a cut in EC grants to the Highlands. Mr Rifkind's opponents were quick to point out that he had picked the wrong target as Mr Millan was not responsible for the policy in question.

Mr Rifkind is believed to have suffered a severe dressing down from the Prime Minister over the Budget issue. The debate is known to have cost the Scottish Tories up to four percentage points in an opinion poll commissioned only days later, and left them with an uphill struggle to regain some popularity before the regional elections.

The Conservatives attracted just over 19 per cent of the vote in the regional elections but it is equally clear that without the Budget dispute they would have achieved up to 22 or 23 per cent of the popular vote.



Distracting matters: A delegate reading *The Times* report on Mr Heseltine's proposals for the poll tax as Mr Rifkind addresses the conference

Forsyth condemns Tory snipers

MR MICHAEL Forsyth, the chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, announced that he was launching a recruiting drive as the first step in a crusade that would lead the Tories to victory at the next general election.

The time had come, he said, for the utmost loyalty rather than the sniping from certain

members of the Tory party. "Loyalty is the currency of success, not mutiny." In an obvious reference to Mr Heseltine, Mr Forsyth said: "Every Conservative can get front page coverage by publicly attacking the leadership and policies of this party. But he is in no doubt that they are doing the Opposition's work

for them, and I, for one, am sick and tired of it." Mrs Thatcher was bound to win a fourth term of office and Scotland had benefited from the Prime Minister's vision.

The Scottish party, which already boasts more members than any other political party north of the Border, had seen its vote soar in the Conser-

vative heartlands of Scotland in the regional elections. "We left our opponents chasing their tails and increased our share of the vote. It was a beginning. At last the great engine of Scottish conservatism is moving forward." Scotland was the fastest growing part of the United Kingdom.

Mr Forsyth said the roof tax was Labour's Titanic, only worse: "At least the Titanic did not sink when it was launched." It was typical of Labour, ill-conceived, inept and inordinately expensive.

"Do you fear as much as I do that Labour would make Scotland the laughing stock of Europe, with our roof tax, income tax, our assembly tax and our nice car with a sunroof and metallic paint? All there to subsidize productivity at Dundee ball-bearing factory number 439."

As for the Scottish nationalists, "They would give us Bulgaria with bagpipes. The only people left with any money would be the SNP councillors, who have been claiming their attendance allowances while telling people not to pay their community charge."

The Government is almost certain to introduce new legislation that would extend its rents-to-mortgages scheme - whereby the rent paid by a tenant is turned into a mortgage, with the Government holding the balance of the home's value - to local authority tenants throughout Britain.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, said yesterday he hoped there would be an announcement soon. The Government had been encouraged by the response to the trial scheme in Scotland, he said.

High tax fears over devolution

SCOTLAND would become the most heavily taxed part of the United Kingdom if a Scottish Assembly with fiscal powers were established, a leading businessman told the conference.

Mr Ewan Marwick, chief executive of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, said the country had been presented with a confusing menu of proposals and counter proposals by the devolution lobby since the 1979 referendum. Most included tax-raising powers but the devolutionists had said nothing about how they would be financed.

An assembly would be bound to intervene and meddle, whatever its powers, and the cost of conforming to different practice in Scotland, Successful companies, management and workers would subsidize failures and competitors so that in the end they would move away, he said. Business confidence was already being eroded by the Scottish Constitutional Convention and its supporters, who did not know whether they wanted a "monster local authority or a wee Parliament".

Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, said it was inconceivable that the Scottish economy would not suffer if there were an assembly tax on top of existing taxes. "The consequences are obvious. Economic activity would slow down, spending in the shops and on services would suffer, higher wage claims would be lodged, costs would rise, competitiveness would fall, jobs would disappear and new investment would be switched to other parts of the UK," he said.

Poll tax rebates sought for wives

WIVES who stay at home to look after young children should be entitled to reductions in their poll tax bills, representatives at the Scottish Conservative Party conference urged yesterday.

The idea, which has some support among Conservative backbenchers and ministers, will be considered as part of the Government's review of the operation of the community charge. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said after the debate. He made clear, yet again, however, that he did not favour sweeping changes to the poll tax which, he believes, has begun to gain acceptance among Scottish voters.

There was, however, no mistaking the support for special help for non-working wives. Mr Paul Martin, an Edinburgh councillor, was loudly applauded when he singled them out as being in need of assistance. He pointed out that the Government had introduced separate taxation of husbands and wives and added: "I think there is a strong case for doing the same thing for the community charge and where husbands and wives do not have incomes, giving rebates regardless of their spouse's income."

Mr Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish Tory Reform Group, backed this appeal. "We should be looking at the position of non-working wives because there is no doubt that some people on low incomes are paying far more in poll tax than they were in rates. It's unfair. The tax needs adjusting."

Mr Rifkind told reporters that he did not believe that the wife of a millionaire should be subsidized by the tax payer.

The secretary of state led a move by Scottish Tories to calm anxieties over the poll tax among English Tory backbenchers. He was supported by Mr Jackson Carlaw, of Eastwood, a speaker from the floor, who said it "sucked in his throat" that southern colleagues, who had lectured Scottish Tories about the need for "backbone" in the face of their past difficulties, were complaining about the first big policy problem they had encountered.

Mr Rifkind said that the results of the local council elections, in which the Conservatives bucked the national trend in Scotland and increased their share of the vote, should steady the resolve of "some of our less robust party colleagues in the South".

He added that the regional elections showed that excessive spending was likely to be curbed when everyone contributed to the cost of local services. Looking forward to the review, he gave warning against "throwing billions of tax-payers' money at local authorities in an unrealistic attempt to secure a massive reduction in poll tax bills".



Mr Parkinson: BR will take Scotland into Europe

Pressure for tunnel rail link

MR CECIL Parkinson came under pressure yesterday to approve a fast rail link from Scotland to the Channel Tunnel. Labour is already working on plans for a line carrying passengers at up to 190mph and the issue is assuming growing importance as the date for the opening of the tunnel approaches.

Representatives at the conference applauded speakers who said that unless rail services to the Continent were much improved the country would fail to reap the full benefits of the project.

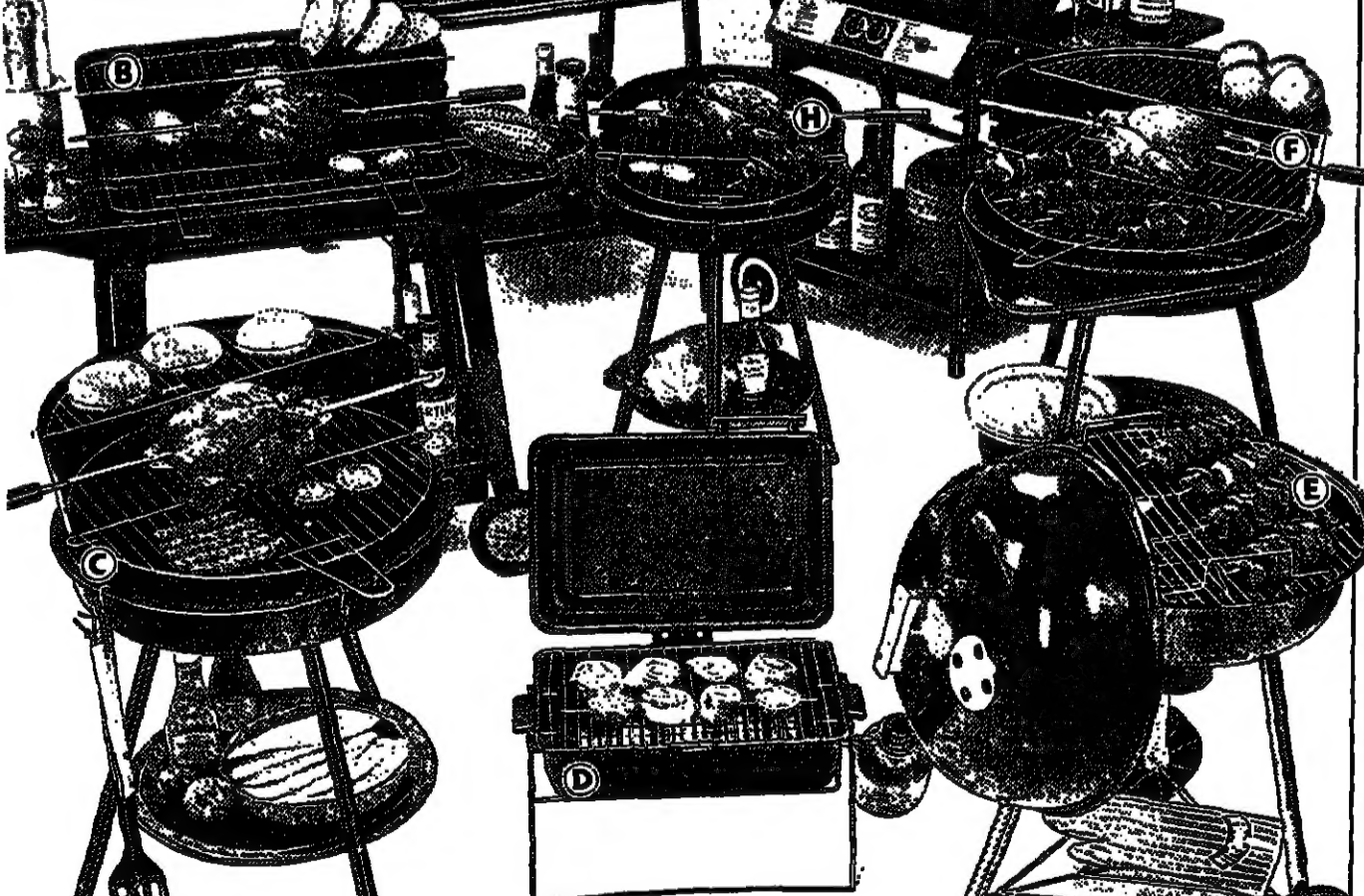
The Secretary of State for Transport maintained, however, that British Rail's existing plans for a £1 billion upgrading of passenger and freight services would "take Scotland truly into Europe".

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Tory MP for Kincardine and Deeside, called for the electrification of the Edinburgh to Aberdeen section of the East Coast line, at a cost of £80million, as part of an integrated National network connecting Scotland to the Channel Tunnel.

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H Bar-More Grill, 14 1/2" diameter, 23" cooking height, food/bottle tray, spit assembly. **£16.99**

I Bar-B-Q Grill, 14 1/2" diameter, 23" cooking height, food/bottle tray, spit assembly. **£16.99**

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L Westminster Pillar Top Outdoor Lantern. **£29.99**

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NOBODY DOES B & Q BETTER

Answers wanted on BAe sale

The Opposition demanded an early statement on what it called "the continuing cover-up" of details of the sale of Rover to British Aerospace.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the Commons, accused the Government of persistently misleading the Commons over the deal. He demanded "the earliest possible statement by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry so we can have some frank answers as to what exactly is going on".

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, rejected any suggestion that there was a cover-up. The deal was the subject of an investigation by a select committee.

690 jobs at risk, says MP

A request by Ms Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South, Lab) for an emergency debate on the closure of the Imperial Tobacco Factory, announced yesterday, was rejected by the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill).

Ms Primarolo said that the closure of the Bristol company would mean the loss of 690 jobs in favour of land speculation. When founded by WD & HO Wills, the city had been assured that the factory could turn to producing confectionery within a week if need be, but greed had been the deciding factor.

Sleeper not to be restored

Calls for the restoration of the British Rail sleeper service between Euston in London and Stranraer were rebuffed by Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State, Northern Ireland, at a question time.

Had more people used the sleeper, it would have been more commercial, he said in response to Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Dumfries and Galloway, Lab) and Mr Roy Bees (Antrim East, UUP) who called for the immediate resumption of the service.

Czech visit for Howard

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, is to visit Czechoslovakia next week to offer support and help in the development of small firms, employment services and training.

£5.5m aid

Britain is to contribute a further £5.5 million of emergency relief and 10,000 tonnes of food aid at a cost of £2 million for Mozambique. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in a Commons written reply.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Debate on Conservative backbench motion on Labour taxation policy. Private Bill. Tuesday and Wednesday: Finance Bill, committee. Thursday: Employment Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Debate on a backbench motion.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, eighth day. Tuesday: Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, report, first day. Wednesday: Debates on cultural, humanitarian and spiritual co-operation in Europe and on nuclear disarmament. Thursday: Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, report, second day. Friday: Environmental Protection Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills. Sexual Offences Bill, remaining stages.

Viewers to benefit from 'vastly increased choice'

A VAST increase in choice of programmes for television viewers is in prospect as a result of the satellite revolution. Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, told MPs when he moved the third reading of the Broadcasting Bill in the Commons yesterday.

He said that the Bill, which provides for the establishment of a third commercial channel and sets up a new controlling body, would rank as one of the most important reforms of broadcasting in the past 50 years.

Mr Mellor said that opportunities were being provided by the remorseless onward march of technology for the enhancement of viewer and listener choice.

The Government would have been remiss not to have recognized that choice, if it was to be enhanced, had to be enhanced within a proper statutory framework.

He believed that the consequences of the Bill for the community would be considerable and beneficial. This would be due to the fact that it was one of the most important reforms of broadcasting in the past 50 years.

Every decade or so there were times in which an important step forward was possible. In the 1950s, they had agreed the ITV system; in the early 1970s, the regional commercial radio network; in the 1980s, Channel 4.

Early changes in broadcasting had been accompanied by an inevitable fear of change with Cassandra voices warning of the damage which would be done.

"I have always taken comfort from the fact that most of the Cassandra voices have been wrong and I believe that in 10 years' time a lot of people will look back and say this Bill is a good thing."

The satellite revolution was upon us. He did not know whether the bold ventures with Astra as well as BSB would win audiences. It was not a matter for the Government.

However, it was all to the good that viewers were going to be offered an enlargement of choice and it was a tribute to the entrepreneurial vigour of the people involved. They were prepared to invest considerable sums of money which were not about to be the lowest possible denominator, as demonstrated by Sky's 24-hour news and a whole range of decisions by BSB.

Satellite posed a dilemma

BROADCASTING

because it could be exploited to transmit filth. There was the danger of having a damaging level of filth which was linked with crime, particularly against women. The Council of Europe convention on broadcasting was acting more quickly than could have been expected to stop unacceptable programmes crossing frontiers.

As a result of the Bill viewers would have more choice. When they were given more choice they seized it. The legislation also offered tremendous opportunities to the broadcasters.

They had the chance of an unprecedented expansion in broadcasting without having to shuttle between the BBC and ITV. "If we do believe in the quality of British broadcasting, it should not be a well kept secret. We should recognize the opportunity for good British programme-making around the world and my vision of British broadcasting is not confined to British audiences, but to providing the best in Europe and indeed worldwide."

If British companies were successful, there could be an incalculable rising demand for new programmes. "I believe we are in a good position to provide them."

Mr Robin Corbett, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that there was a single question to be asked: Would television and radio services be better or worse or simply different as a result of the Bill?

Labour welcomed the new technology and the extra choice and variety which could be provided by the Bill. It feared because the Government had abandoned much of the sensible basis on which television and radio had been built and developed in the past.

The choice in the Bill would not be extended to those who watched and listened but to those who offered cash to broadcast. There would be more stations, but experience in West Germany, France and Italy suggested that that would mean less drama, education and social action broadcasting.

"The reality of this Bill is that it abandons the viewers and listeners to the outcome of the broadcasting market."

He had argued hard and long about the need to restrict the holdings of newspaper owners in television. Mr Murdoch owned 35 per cent of the Sunday and daily press and was heavily involved in Sky.

It was not just Labour which saw danger in this dominance of the media by a single, wealthy voice. The rules should not depend on where and with whom Mr Murdoch ate his Christmas dinner.

"That is why an incoming Labour government will ensure that Mr Murdoch will be given equality of treatment and a sensible period in which to divest one or other of his interests."

Changes in the way Channel 3 franchise holders would be chosen would help, but, in the end, the Bill would not give the diversity, quality and innovation that it should. "It puts the accountants in the driving seat."

Mr Robert Gale (Thanet North, C) said that the country faced the prospect of pan-European broadcasting. There were already 17 television channels available in many parts of the country, and another 16 Astra channels would be available later this year.

The prospects were enormous and the opportunity for programme makers was considerable, but he found it curious that some regarded the prospect of a tenfold increase in audience sizes as a threat.

Twenty-two national newspapers in this country were owned by eleven companies. There were well over 1,000 daily and weekly regional and local newspapers, none of which were in Mr Murdoch's hands.

He did not believe that the prospect of having four or five television channels in the hands of someone who also owned a few newspapers was a threat to democracy.

In fact, he would like to see the rules relaxed and newspapers able to acquire a greater share in television and radio and in new newspapers. It was a pity that the Bill did not allow local newspapers to have a controlling interest in community radio stations.

Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South, Lab) said that the Bill would pass power in broadcasting to someone whose expertise was spent every day in *The Sun*.

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP) said that Christians had been outraged when the Bill was published. They could not understand why religious broadcasting had been left out. They would now be pleased at changes which would allow freedom for the propagation of the Christian faith.

Mr Robert Maclean, Liberal Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that the Bill did not usher in an age of change for the 1990s with due regard to quality requirements. The debate had been dominated by the Treasury and the Department of Industry, not by Home Office ministers.

An opportunity had been missed by not having a tendering process for the franchises which focused on quality rather than cash.

He congratulated Mr Mellor on improving one of the worst Bills to confront MPs. They could now live with the arrangements.

Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrekin, Lab) said that the Bill had been begun by a Prime Minister with a congenital tendency to meddle in areas she did not understand.

EC 'must act to free hostages'

The European Community should act as a body to try to secure the release of hostages in the Middle East, Mr Alan Bevan (Bury North, C) told the Commons at business questions.

He asked: "Why are we all Europeans for some purposes, but the hostages are French, Belgian, British or Irish?"

Why could the EC not provide a forum to resolve the problem caused by the false jailing in Greece of Mr Paul Ashwell, the British lorry driver? The Commons should debate these matters.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, said that the Government was vigorously representing its concern about Mr Ashwell's detention and continued to press with sustained effort the concern for the hostages. The EC had been seeking, through political co-operation, to enhance its ability to work together on this. "But it still falls short of the ideal."

Mr Edward McGrady (Down South, SDLP) said that there were councils where, although minority parties had a substantial say, progress had been difficult. Sectarian attitudes were very much to the fore, particularly on Belfast corporation which ought to be the flagship in Northern Ireland. Committees had been structured in such a way as to prevent the proper participation of minority parties, which were deprived of a voice and representation. Financial resources had been denied for community services in minority areas.

In those circumstances would the return of power to local government not be inappropriate and best left to settlement between the parties in due course?

Mr Brooke said that contacts between ministers and Belfast City Council had been limited in recent years. If advances were to be made in the transfer of power there would need to be widespread acceptance of the principles involved.

Mr James Killefer (Down North, UUP) said that the onus was on the Government to act and it must no longer allow Dublin to stymie progress, by setting down the conditions for such progress.

The Northern Ireland Assembly should be restored. The Government had brought it, scandalously, to an abrupt end before entering into the Anglo-Irish agreement which had been a betrayal of the vast majority in the province.

"Surely now the Government should recognize that betrayal and give power back to the elected representatives in Northern Ireland."

Mr Brooke said that the Anglo-Irish agreement acknowledged the possibility of the transfer of power to local representatives and the involvement of the Irish Government in such conversations would be related to the legality and modality to be expressed in discussions and talks. That rested solely with the parties in Northern Ireland and the Government.

Mr James Crahan (Beverly, C) said that far too much power was exercised by Northern Ireland ministers and not enough by local people. "Would he agree that now by the time for Northern Ireland politicians to sink their differences, which we all accept, have been very real, in the interests of transferring power which would be in everybody's interest?"

Mr Brooke said that Northern Ireland ministers did hold considerable power and the Government had been seeking to persuade locally elected politicians to agree the transfer of some of that responsibility elsewhere. It was a two-way process which required talks and conversations.

Mr Clifford Forsythe (Antrim South,



Keep the winning team, Tories told

CONSERVATIVES were offered free expert advice on team selection by a former first division soccer club chairman. The advice - never change a winning team - was accepted with alacrity by the present captain of the Conservative team.

At question time in the Commons, Mr David Evans (Welwyn Hatfield, C), former chairman of Luton Town FC, a team which has just survived the struggle to avoid relegation, but only on goal difference, said modestly that he had an interest in a certain football club.

"It goes without saying that we never change a winning team," he said to Conservative cheers. "As she was our centre-forward and our winning team."

"Our supporters would also be dismayed if we put a reserve team centre-forward and captain on the field, notwithstanding that the Labour Party has second-rate ideas, second-rate policies and, as their supporters know, a sub-zero leader" (laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: I know that he and I share the same goal. With myself as centre-forward and him as right winger, we should make a winning team (cheers and laughter).

The time had come for a full inquiry and the best thing to do was to establish a special select committee of the House

with powers to call for persons and papers so that the facts could be laid bare.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher commended the work of the Audit Commission in identifying waste and making recommendations. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, would have heard the suggestion of a select committee.

"Bearing in mind that a large part of local authority expenditure comes from the taxpayer, I think it a very good point."

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Tebbit

Infertility help too uneven, House is told

By Sheila Gunn Political Reporter

HEALTH SERVICE

THE Government was criticized yesterday for refusing to provide treatment and counselling for childless couples under the National Health Service throughout the country.

Ms Harriet Harman, the shadow health minister, produced a survey showing that couples can be forced to wait up to two years for an appointment for infertility treatment.

During the committee stage scrutiny in the Commons of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, however, her amendments to improve services were rejected by the Government.

Ms Harman argued that the Warnock report, on which the legislation is based, had complained of haphazard and unsatisfactory organization and provision of infertility services in the National Health Service.

"The Government has ignored that recommendation. As a result, the advances made possible by research are available only to those who can pay or the few who live in areas where the National Health Service provides full services," she said.

As many as one in eight couples are estimated to suffer from fertility problems and 275,000 couples could be helped by in-vitro fertilization treatment, according to the most recent data.

Ms Harman added: "Opportunities for treatment have advanced enormously in the last decade with test tube babies, artificial insemination by donor or husband and improved surgery to clear blocked fallopian tubes. Yet provision in the health service is patchy and inadequate."

Despite a recommendation in the Warnock report, the Government had admitted that no national information on infertility or specialist services was collected.

Ms Harman's survey of 121 district health authorities found that, for example, childless couples in the Oxford or West

Midlands regions stand a far better chance of being referred to a specialist clinic than those living in the North-west.

Waiting times varied from only one to two weeks in areas covered by Bassetlaw and Macclesfield health authorities to as much as two years in Blackburn.

Ms Harman said: "This mean-spirited Government sees this medical advance, not as a wonderful opportunity to relieve the suffering caused by infertility, but as an additional and awesome cost to the health service."

"So, while the private sector pioneers new services, they remain out of the reach of those who cannot afford to pay. The Government must allow the National Health Service to move with the times and provide new treatment."

She also criticized the lack of counselling services for couples in many areas. District health authorities reported that most counselling is done informally by the consultant, at family planning clinics or by staff in out-patients' departments.

For example, Canterbury and Thanet health authority told her: "The colposcopy nurse at Margate is very good at talking to patients, but she is not a fully trained counsellor. I am afraid."

Wandsworth health authority reported a counselling service based on a hospital chaplain and two psychologists and South Manchester health authority reported a unit in non-medical counselling because of reductions in social services.

"Whether you can get infertility treatment depends on whether you can afford to pay," Ms Harman said.

"For many people these medical advances hold out no hope at all, not because their condition is not amenable to treatment, but because they cannot afford to pay for private fertility testing and treatment and they live in an area where the health service offers nothing."

Council finance scrutiny plea

A SELECT committee of the Commons with power to send for witnesses and papers to inquire into local government, was suggested by a Conservative MP during question time. His suggestion met with a sympathetic response from the Prime Minister.

Mr William Powell (Corby, C) said that there was growing public anger, resentment and anxiety about waste of taxpayers' money by a number of local authorities.

The time had come for a full inquiry and the best thing to do was to establish a special select committee of the House

PRIME MINISTER

with powers to call for persons and papers so that the facts could be laid bare.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher commended the work of the Audit Commission in identifying waste and making recommendations. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, would have heard the suggestion of a select committee.

"Bearing in mind that a large part of local authority expenditure comes from the taxpayer, I think it a very good point."

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Tebbit

Mr Norman Tebbit (Chingford, C) asked her to consider more carefully the suggestion of a select committee.

"After all," he said, "it could take evidence on the desirability of a roof tax and explore the possibility of how that would be implemented; and would she accept that the committee should be specifically excluded from questioning any members of the Labour Party, however distinguished, about whether they voted Conservative in the Ealing Borough Council election?" (Mr Kinnoch, who lives in Ealing, smiled.)

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Tebbit

makes his point more powerfully than I. Those who turned out the Ealing Labour council did a very good day's work (Conservative cheers).

Mr Michael Shersby (Uxbridge, C) will take time to consider the excellent local election results in Hillingdon where the Conservatives won control of the council?

Mrs Thatcher agreed, congratulated Mr Shersby, and said that Conservative local government not only cost less but also gave much better service.

Tony Travers, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Two whips appointed



Poverty report 'is an indictment'

THE report of the Select Committee on Social Services revealing that the poorest section of the community was not doing as well as claimed was a "damning indictment" of government policy towards low-income families, Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the Commons, said.

It exposed the "totally bogus persistent claims" of the Prime Minister and other ministers that people on low incomes had been doing well and been fairly treated, he said during exchanges about forthcoming business in the House. Did it not contrast starkly with the bogley more favourable treatment of those on high incomes, who had received tax reductions?

The Government should provide time for an early debate on

SOCIAL SERVICES

the committee's report and the widening gap between the poorest people in Britain and those who were very well off.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, said that the Government was concerned about the statistics which the Government had acted openly and quickly to correct.

Mr Jerry Hayes (Harlow, C) said that the Leader of the Opposition's criticism of the Prime Minister for the mistake in statistics on the poor was irresponsible. The select committee was not accusing the Government of fraud or dishonesty. It had been a genuine mistake.

Ulster power talks under way

MINISTERS have been talking with political leaders in Northern Ireland about the possible transfer of greater powers to local councillors, Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons during question time.

"I have made it clear that the Government would give serious consideration to any workable proposals for more local involvement in the government of Northern Ireland if they seemed likely to command widespread acceptance."

Mr James Crahan (Beverly, C) said that far too much power was exercised by Northern Ireland ministers and not enough by local people. "Would he agree that now by the time for Northern Ireland politicians to sink their differences, which we all accept, have been very real, in the interests of transferring power which would be in everybody's interest?"

Mr Brooke said that Northern Ireland ministers did hold considerable power and the Government had been seeking to persuade locally elected politicians to agree the transfer of some of that responsibility elsewhere. It was a two-way process which required talks and conversations.

Mr Clifford Forsythe (Antrim South,

NORTHERN IRELAND

UUP asked, in relation to competitive tendering, what plans the Government had to prevent involvement by the paramilitary groups.

Mr Brooke said that the Government had that danger and threat very much in mind.

Mr James Killefer (Down North, UUP) said that the onus was on the Government to act and it must no longer allow Dublin to stymie progress, by setting down the conditions for such progress.

The Northern Ireland Assembly should be restored. The Government had brought it, scandalously, to an abrupt end before entering into the Anglo-Irish agreement which had been a betrayal of the vast majority in the province.

"Surely now the Government should recognize that betrayal and give power back to the elected representatives in Northern Ireland."

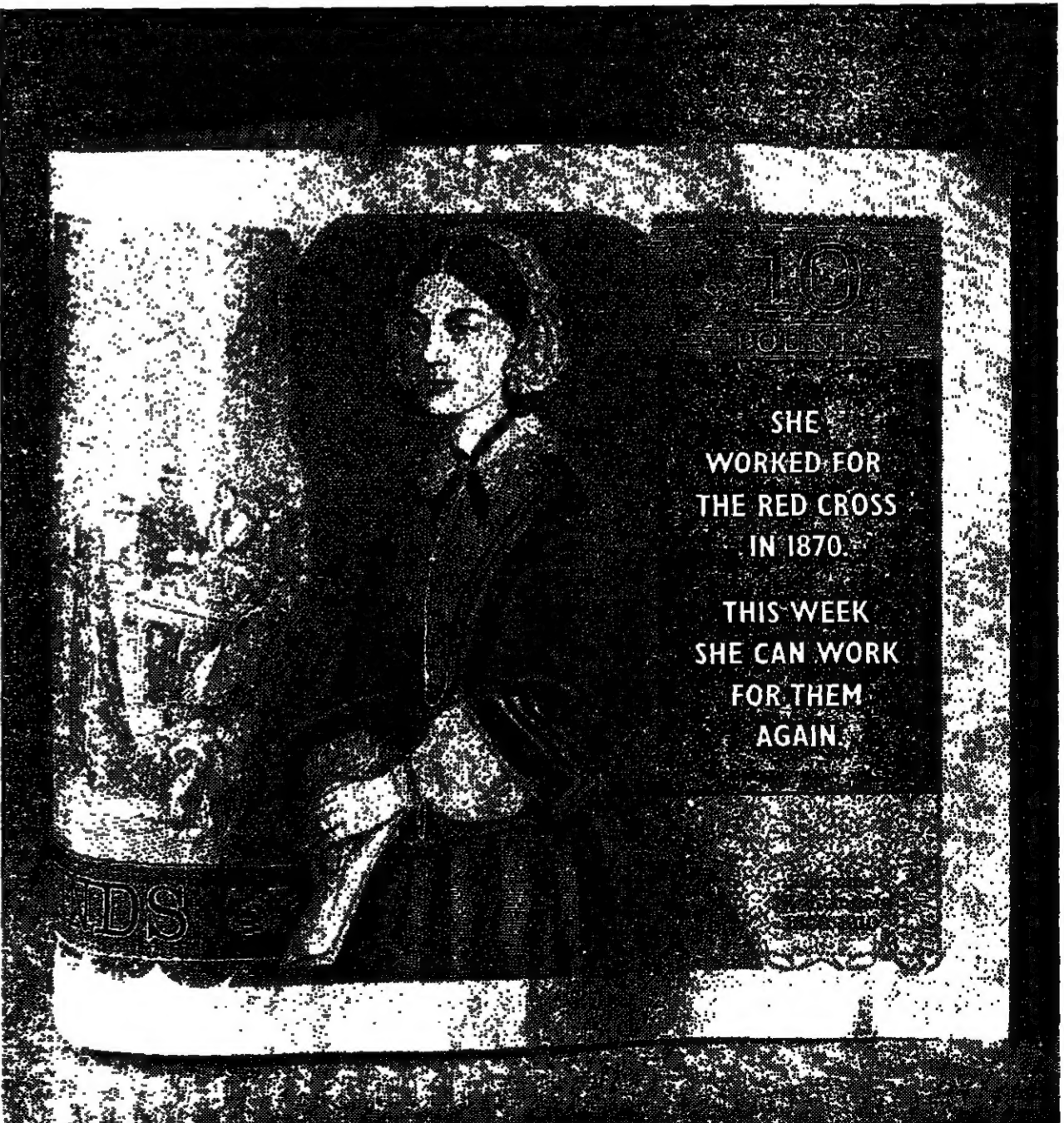
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A hundred and twenty years on, both Red Cross volunteers and the people they help, still rely on your financial support.

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BRITISH RED CROSS WEEK 11-17 MAY

Foreign workers to be penalized in Soviet tax blitz

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

IVAN Ivanovich is in for a rude shock on July 1: he will have to start paying a progressive income tax for the first time. But resident aliens like the Schmidts and Duponts, not to speak of the Hashimotos, will have an even ruder shock: they will find themselves elevated suddenly to the supertax bracket and could be called upon to settle bills equivalent to thousands of pounds before they can leave the country.

The plight of Ivan Ivanovich is not quite as desperate as it may seem. Most Russians at present pay a modest flat-rate tax at 13 per cent of their income. All single people pay an extra "bachelor" tax, as do couples without children. This much-hated tax is to be phased out in the next five

years. The new income tax law, passed by the Supreme Soviet at the end of last month and published in the press just before the Victory Day holiday, has wisely left the basic rate of Soviet tax much as it is for people with incomes of between 100 and 700 roubles (officially £700) a month. As the average wage is around 250 roubles a month, few Russians should need to cultivate their tax man for the time being.

Even Politburo members, on a recently disclosed salary of 900 roubles a month, will not feel too cool a draught and their "office" cars will not be taxed. The many Soviet workers who receive 13th, 14th, and even 15th month salaries and bonuses will still be outside the upper-tax groups, too, and the much-coveted "business trips" to other cities or abroad — which can be little more than shopping opportunities — will be tax-free.

Those Soviet citizens whom the new tax system is supposed to catch will be as elusive as ever. Although one of the stated aims of the new law is "greater social justice", netting the truly astronomical sums "earned" by black marketers and currency speculators will be almost impossible. Much of their money is immediately "invested" in valuables and scarce consumer goods.

For the foreign business community in the Soviet Union, the threat of the new law is immediate and of quite a different order. Foreigners working in the Soviet Union will be subject to tax rates of up to 60 per cent regardless of where their salaries are paid.

Because Western salaries are so much higher on average, almost all Westerners will fall into the highest tax bracket — this takes more than 30 per cent from sums up to 3,000 roubles a month and 60 per cent of any sum higher

than that — making an aggregate of around 48 per cent of all income. This compares with an average of 13 per cent already being paid by resident foreigners.

Soviet finance officials are coy about how the income of resident foreigners will be monitored (especially if it never enters the country), but Mrs Lyudmila Mamed, deputy head of the Finance Ministry's tax department, said chillingly: "We have our ways." She dismissed suggestions that the new regulations would deter foreign business.

Western commercial offices are worried, however. An otherwise reticent manager of one of the biggest American banks agreed that tax was "a key factor" in the bank's presence in the Soviet Union. No one disagreed with the proposition that the new legislation would discourage foreign commercial interest in the Soviet Union.

Whitehall sources said Britain had been exempted from the new legislation because of a double taxation agreement with the Soviet Union. It is understood that most other countries did not make similar agreements with Moscow, because it was not thought necessary.

Even under such agreements, however, it seems that the foreigner will be required to pay the difference between the tax he pays to his own country's authorities and the Soviet rate.

● **RIGA:** A group of Latvian deputies left for Moscow yesterday to take part in the new session of the Supreme Soviet, hoping to discuss the Latvian independence process with Soviet officials (Anatoli Lieven writes). Estonia, which this week matched the Latvian declaration of legal independence with a similar one of its own, is also expected to send deputies to Moscow. The Lithuanian leadership withdrew its deputies.



Teachers protesting outside the Volkskammer in East Berlin after a march through the city to demand higher wages. The teachers were among tens of thousands of workers throughout East Germany who went on strike to demand job security in the run-up to currency union

Comecon chief pleads for time

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

COMECON, the Soviet trading bloc, has no future in its present form, its secretary said yesterday. But with radical restructuring it could play a vital role in economic research and helping East European countries move to market economies.

Comecon could then help these countries adapt their economic rules to those of the European Community and the European Free Trade Association, according to Mr Vyacheslav Stetsko, Comecon's Soviet secretary. This would enable all three trading groups eventually to come together in a tripartite alliance of all the economies of Europe.

For this reason, Comecon was watching the negotiations between the EC and Efta with great interest, in the hope that it too could work out a new relationship with the EC.

Mr Stetsko told a conference in Ghent that all this would take time. Comecon could not be transformed overnight. It had already begun trading in convertible currency, but would still need to use transferable roubles and non-convertible East European currencies during a transition period. Comecon governments would still have to plan co-ordinated deliveries of fuel and raw materials, machine engineering, electronics and goods strategically important for Eastern Europe.

He denied that Comecon would collapse. But he admitted it was ossified, inflexible, out of touch with economic reality and increasingly irrelevant to world trade. While countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico and Brazil had doubled their sales of industrial goods to the West since the late 1970s, the Comecon share in these markets had halved. Exports to industrialized countries fell from 6 to 4 per cent between 1988 and 1989. And the share of world trade was a mere 9 per cent, with trade in high technology being infinitesimal.

Mr Stetsko suggested that Comecon would become little more than a central research and analysis organization, helping members with statistical data and co-ordinating policies in such fields as environmental protection, transport and power engineering.

The trading bloc has virtually ceased to function after last year's revolutions in Eastern Europe and the economic collapse in the Soviet Union.

Kohl takes charge of reunification terms

From Ian Murray, Bonn

HERR Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday demonstrated to the Bundestag that he, and he alone, means to dictate terms for German unity. His speech was the most assured performance in a debate in which he showed that he had brought to heel Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, who had said last weekend that he would support a Soviet move to postpone the Nato question for some years in the interests of quick agreement on unity.

Herr Kohl, however, has now made it clear that East Germany would be under Nato's protection because it will be part of the sovereign territory of an alliance member. This means that at the next meeting of foreign ministers of the two Germanies

and the four victorious Second World War allies, the Soviet Union will be firmly told that, while it can continue to keep troops there for a limited number of years, East Germany will be under Nato's protection.

Herr Genscher did his best to sugar the pill by telling the Bundestag that Bonn understood Soviet economic and security worries and was determined that German unity would not work to the disadvantage of any country concerned. He hinted strongly that Moscow could expect help to restructure its economy efficiently. "It is better to help the Soviet Union build up a peace industry in a reformed economy than to finance a new arms race," he said.

Herr Kohl, who had clearly made Herr Genscher alter his earlier position, devoted the bulk of his Bundestag speech to telling the East Germans bluntly that they had to introduce radical economic reforms quickly if Bonn was to keep its promise of a Deutschmark takeover on July 2.

Referring to economic problems on currency union, he lectured the East German Government on the need for economic responsibility. While the debate went on, tens of thousands of East German workers showed their unhappiness with the terms for currency union with strikes.

Shoemakers campaigned for protection against Western imports, while farmers blocked motorways and border crossing points with tractors to support demands for job security for 600,000 people and a 40-hour week.

The aim was to send Bonn a message that the country was not prepared to be taken over on dictated terms.

Herr Kohl was apparently not impressed. He said he had led West Germany through its most successful post-war economic period and, having ignored expert Bundesbank advice to agree parity between Deutschmarks and Ostmarks, he was clearly in no mood for further concessions.

The East German coalition wants improved social benefits, including more generous treatment for pensioners and redundancy payments for workers who lose jobs by moves to a free market.

There is also concern that West German speculators will purchase property in East Germany at prices local people cannot afford, and so buy up the country. A compromise suggestion is that land can only be bought if it is to be used to create jobs, but this idea would require more regulation than Herr Kohl wants to see in a free market.

He is also fighting off attempts by the East German Government to tie his hands after union by fixing a budget now which would oblige West Germany to finance projects and benefit schemes later.

According to Herr Kohl, all the worries were groundless. All the East German Government had to do was follow his advice and example, introduce a social market economy quickly in a way which would not endanger the stability of the Deutschmark and watch the economy of a united Germany grow in a way which would be a model for an integrated European Community.

British rearguard action on weapons

From Martin Fletcher, Kananaskis, Canada

THE Nato Defence Ministers' Nuclear Planning Group meeting drew to a close here yesterday with Britain fighting a rearguard action against calls for the elimination of all the alliance's short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

The Dutch and the Germans seized on President Bush's recent announcement that he would not be modernizing the US short-range nuclear arsenal to press for its total removal now that the Warsaw Pact faces collapse.

The arsenal, based largely in West Germany, consists of about 1,400 nuclear-tipped artillery shells and 700 ageing Lance missiles targeted on Eastern Europe's new democracies. Herr Genscher, the West German minister, said the arsenal should be eliminated through negotiation with the Soviet Union. Mr Relus ter Beek, the Dutch minister, went further, saying the shells should be withdrawn promptly and unilaterally. Both claim wide support, particularly from the Italians and Belgians.

Mr Tom King, the British Defence Secretary, agreed at a press conference on Wednesday night that changes in Eastern Europe offered "real scope for reductions" in tactical nuclear weapons, but insisted that Nato had to retain a "sub-strategic" as well as strategic nuclear deterrent.

With the huge Soviet superiority in conventional forces likely to be ended by treaty this autumn, Mr King said there was "a feeling around... that that obviates the need for nuclear deterrence. You need only a superficial knowledge of history to know that's nonsense".

Mr King refused to say of what he thought a "sub-strategic" deterrent should consist. He said this July's Nato summit would instigate a review of "the appropriate mix of conventional and nuclear forces" for the Alliance in a post-Cold War world.

But British officials emphasized that Nato policy, agreed a year ago, was to aim for no more than "partial" reduction in short-range nuclear weaponry, and that remained a policy which the Government supported.

They claimed US support for this position, but aides to Mr Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, said the Administration had yet to develop a formal position on the issue and admitted that the idea of unilaterally withdrawing some artillery shells was under consideration.

Leading article, page 13

Queen honours Budapest doctor

From Alan Hamilton, Budapest

THE Queen has given royal recognition to the Peto Institute in Budapest, which treats young victims of cerebral palsy by unconventional means, by awarding an honorary OBE to Dr Maria Hari, its director. The award was presented by the Princess of Wales yesterday at the end of the royal couple's four-day official visit to Hungary.

Some British medical opinion remains sceptical of the institute's methods, which are based largely on intensive physiotherapy, but 80 British children are being treated there, and the British Government is contributing £5 million towards a new and larger building.

During a heart-rending tour of wards and rooms filled with severely disabled children, the Princess met one of the institute's successes. Dawn Rogers, aged 9, from Nottingham, entered the institute three years ago unable to walk, speak or use her arms. Now she has the use of all her limbs, and speaks and writes fluent Hungarian as well as English. Dawn's parents have had to sell their frozen food business and remortgage their house to meet the £15,000-a-year cost of treatment, travel and accommodation in Budapest.

The Princess, meanwhile, paid a call on a Hungarian entrepreneur who managed to become a millionaire even under the communist regime. Professor Erno Rubik has already sold an estimated 100 million of his infuriating puzzle cubes, and uses some of the proceeds to fund an award scheme for young Hungarian inventors, much like the Prince's own innovation awards in Britain.

"Have you tried it?" the professor asked the Princess, proffering a cube. "Not yet," said the Princess, fiddling with the puzzle, "but I know it has driven thousands of people mad."

Undeterred, the professor presented her with a selection of puzzles in which portraits of British royalty had to be lined up in place of the usual coloured squares.

The Princess's visit to Hungary has been much more overtly political than is usual for royal tours abroad.

Yesterday, just before the royal couple flew home, a large crowd turned out to greet them with applause, handshakes and requests for their autographs as they went walking in a Budapest square.

Hurd turns the spotlight on 'tortoises' of EC law

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN'S long-expected counter-attack against the European Community nations which have been pushing for political union began last night when Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, made the first in a series of key speeches.

He set out to bring the enthusiasts for greater unity down to earth by reminding them that they have not yet put into effect some of the simplest decisions taken by the EC.

Mr Hurd presented what he called "a new British initiative to improve national implementation of Community decisions". It may, however, be seen as a veiled reminder that Italy, one of the countries most in favour of political union, has been the slowest to pass laws to give effect to EC decisions. Rome will hold the EC presidency from July, and will be pressing for faster progress towards union.

Mr Hurd is to have talks in Rome on Wednesday with Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, and Signor Ciriaco De Mita, the Foreign Minister, who are unlikely to be pleased by his move.

In a speech to the Scottish Institute of Directors, Mr Hurd praised a monitoring system which the European Commission has set up to record progress towards completion of the Single Market, which comes into effect on January 1, 1993.

Mr Hurd said it was "a great help in distinguishing... the

tortoises from the hares". He did not add, but his audience probably knew, that the Commission's latest figures show that Italy has the worst record for implementing Single Market decisions, while Britain has the best. He was therefore telling Italy a tortoise and Britain a hare.

The Commission has proposed 282 Single Market measures, of which 162 have been adopted by the Council of Ministers. Britain has passed all but nine into law, while Italy has 50 outstanding, according to a Commission report on March 20. Whitehall sources said that since then Britain had cleared a further six measures, leaving only three outstanding.

Only 21 measures have been implemented by all 12 countries, and one, the Toy Safety Directive, which sets standards for ensuring, among other things, that eyes do not fall out of teddy bears, has been implemented by only four countries. Britain is one of them.

Mr Hurd proposed that the system should be extended to cover the whole range of EC legislation, not just the part included under the Single European Act. "We would like this new system to begin operating with the Italian presidency in July," he said.

Other nations likely to be embarrassed by the proposal are Portugal, with 43 measures outstanding, Belgium with 34 and Greece with 31.

Mr Hurd's intention, although he put it in diplomatic

language, was to tell the pro-federalists that they were going ahead too fast. He wants a pragmatic programme with no moves towards political union until the EC has completed six important programmes already under way. These are the Single Market; a new relationship between the EC and the EFTA countries; the EC's part in the Uruguay round of the GATT talks; the absorption of East Germany into the EC; a closer relationship with the rest of Eastern Europe; and preparations for an inter-governmental conference on monetary union.

Mr Hurd is expected to announce further initiatives soon. These will deal with making the existing institutions work better; improving the EC's financial accountability; and improving the balance of power between the EC's institutions and the national parliaments.

● **MOSCOW:** A senior European Commission official said yesterday that the EC and the Soviet Union could use a sweeping new joint trade and co-operation pact to help reshape Europe.

Mr Frans Andriessen, the Foreign Affairs Commissioner, told a news conference the pact, designed to boost trade and other links, was an important element for building what he said was the future architecture of Europe.

Soviet and EC officials yesterday opened two days of talks on how best to implement the pact, which was signed last year. (Reuter)

Iliescu keeps protest at bay

From Christopher Walker, Ploiesti, Romania

REVILED by students who fought on the December barricades as a closet Communist and Kremlin stooge, Mr Ion Iliescu, the clear favourite to win the May 20 election for the presidency, is seen by most workers as a hero with the best credentials to lead Romania into a new democratic era.

The dangerous polarization of the country, reinforced by a violent and often sinister election campaign, was nowhere better demonstrated than in this polluted, oil-refining city where he came to boost the high hopes of the ruling National Salvation Front.

While a near-hysterical crowd of some 30,000 waited to chant approval in the shadow of St Vasil's Cathedral in the city centre, the

nearest anti-Front protesters dared to come to the rally was a road junction two miles away, where about 200 local tourists equating the Front with the KGB.

"This is not an election as you are used to in Britain, France or West Germany," a local tourist guide said. "If those people went any nearer to the Front supporters their lives would be in danger."

The constant fear of intimidation which has overshadowed the campaign has meant that posters are kept to a minimum and opposition rallies are few and far between.

Mr Iliescu, who is said to have befriended Mr Mikhail Gorbachev when he was a student at the Molotov Institute in Moscow, dismissed

suggestions that there should be 11th-hour changes to the electoral law to prevent former Communist Party stalwarts like himself from standing. "They do not trust the Romanian electorate, and maybe even now they will decide to break up the election," he told the huge crowd.

Even political observers who are suspicious of Mr Iliescu's links with Moscow, admit that he has worked hard at the near-impossible task of unifying Romania. "For me, he is a spiritual father. He is the man who was with us on December 21 and December 22," said Miss Georgiana Dewald, a young secretary who took part in the protests in the town of Timisoara which started the revolution.

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Fear behind Romania's election facade

From Tim Judah, Raducaneni, Moldavia

DESPITE reports of widespread intimidation in rural areas in the run-up to the May 20 Romanian elections Mr Claudiu Ispir, the Mayor of Raducaneni, is confident the campaign in his village is proceeding "quietly but without incident".

But he says nervously: "I've been told not to talk about politics." Nevertheless, he is happy to show off the neat lists of Raducaneni's 2,500 electorate, the list of local candidates and his new ballot boxes. These are stored next to the shed where Vasile, the town hall pig, is snuffling happily. On the surface it is almost idyllic. Raducaneni is a typical Moldavian village. It sits on a hill in rich wine-producing country and looks down on the nearby Soviet frontier.

"There's so much to do for the election," said the mayor. "I just wish it was over."

Mr Silion Pompiliu, the history teacher at the school, is the local organizer for the opposition National

Liberal Party. He said: "We've presented our manifesto, and now we're waiting for the election result." And campaigning? "No," he said. "No canvassing — we want a civilized campaign." Has there been any trouble so far? Mr Pompiliu looked nervous. "No trouble."

Mr Pompiliu did not say that he had opened an office in the main street — but was forced to close it. It was in a room belonging to the local tailor, Mr Ioan Faraon, who has to be convinced to tell the story. He said: "Mr Pompiliu persuaded me to give up my front room for the office. We had to close it after three weeks. We were constantly threatened. After I was physically threatened and shoved about on several occasions, my wife said I had to close the office. By that time even Mr Pompiliu, who of course had also been threatened, had stopped coming."

Across the road from Mr Faraon's house is the office of the local National Salvation Front. It is next to the pub which Mr Pavel Ciobanica,

the local Front president, had clearly been visiting. With some jocularity he gestured to Mr Faraon's house: "The Liberals were there — the affair didn't last long."

Mr Ciobanica claimed that the Liberal office was forced to close by people who signed up for membership thinking that they would get money for doing so. When they found out that they were mistaken they "destroyed" the place.

As for his own party, Mr Ciobanica said: "People are content here. The Front will win 95 per cent of the vote because President Iliescu has put forward such an extraordinary platform."

When asked who is more important in the village, the Mayor or the President of the local provisional council, Mr Ciobanica seemed unsure. At first he said the Mayor, then the President of the council. Who is head of the council? "I am, because my brother who was elected to the post was too busy to do the job." Meanwhile, interviews on the street

revealed no open support for any party other than the Front. Mr Nicolae Ilie, an electrician, will vote for the Front because it will "guarantee every worker a job". He said: "The Liberals mean capitalism."

Mr Ilie Dobrin, a gypsy, said he would vote for the Front because "Iliescu fought with the gypsies in the revolution." Mr Petre Bejan, a shepherd, said: "I'll vote for whoever they tell me to vote for." So far, Mr Bejan said, he has been "told" to vote for Mr Iliescu. He did not know the names of the other presidential candidates and could not say who is telling him whom to vote for. There is a counsel of despair in Raducaneni: Mr Virgil Butnarasu, the English teacher, said: "Communism has poisoned the minds of our people. They have become sheeplike."

Meanwhile, Mrs Doina Cornea, the Romanian dissident, announced in Bucharest yesterday that she is going on hunger strike in solidarity with students protesting at the Front's political power.

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Doina Cornea announcing her hunger strike

Secondhand smoking blamed for lung cancer

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Secondary smoking is blamed for lung cancer

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

"PASSIVE smoking" causes at least 3,000 cases of lung cancer among non-smokers each year and a significant number of deaths and respiratory problems among the children of smokers, according to the tentative conclusion of the US Government's first official study of the effects of "second-hand" smoke.

The findings of the 18-month study drew immediate wrath from smokers and America's harassed tobacco industry. Already under siege amid a decline in smokers in the United States in past years, American tobacco producers fear the report could lead the Government to label environmental smoke as a cancer-causing and recommend policies on permitted indoor areas for smoking when it releases a full report.

Taking preventive action, Philip Morris Inc, the Virginia-based tobacco giant best known for its Marlboro brand

of cigarettes, has been distributing copies of a dissertation by a Yale University doctoral candidate claiming to show that non-smokers do not suffer any significant harm from secondary smoke. The firm has complained that the Government had not looked at this analysis even though it was the most comprehensive study to date on passive smoking.

America's equally strident anti-smoking lobby has nevertheless declared the government study's provisional conclusions a milestone in its fight to persuade the American public of the toxicity of cigarette smoke.

Non-smokers hope the government study, conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency from 24 separate reports published in professional medical journals, will strengthen their argument over one of the most contentious issues in offices around the country.

The results of the EPA study, leaked in US newspapers this week, are due for public release in June after a review by a panel of independent scientists. If published unchanged, the report would class cigarette smoke as a very dangerous carcinogen, or as much of a risk to human health as radon and benzene, which are on the Government's Class A danger list.

One scientist for the environmental agency has calculated that the danger of inhaling secondary tobacco smoke is 100 times greater than exposure to cancer-causing pollutants designed for outdoor use and restricted by the US Government under the Clean Air Act.

The United States is already leagues ahead of Europe in recognizing the dangers of cigarette smoke. Smoking is rarely permitted in even lobbies of cinemas and theatres, and Amtrak, the national rail system, has been cutting back the number of smoking carriages on main lines. Restaurants are obliged by state laws to offer customers separate smoking and non-smoking sections.

The environmental agency proposes the separate ventilation of smoking and non-smoking areas at work. The government study could force the managers of buildings and public places to introduce tougher measures still.

FBI tape on mayor revealed

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

THE ability of Mr Marion Barry, the Mayor of Washington, to wriggle out of controversy has always amazed Washingtonians. But yesterday they had a preview of the city's most coveted video — of Mr Barry allegedly smoking crack cocaine.

The Washington Post published details of a videotape made by the FBI four months ago when they caught the Mayor in a "sting" operation — allegedly smoking cocaine with a former girlfriend in the pay of the FBI. The Mayor is due to stand trial on June 4.

Details of the video came as a Congress survey showed as many as one in every hundred Americans are addicted to cocaine. In Washington, the figure rises to an estimated 33 addicts in every 1,000.

The Post said the tape showed Mr Barry handing \$30 (£18) to the FBI's informant, Miss Hazel Diane "Rasheeda" Moore, to buy drugs. Mr Barry's lawyers will use the videotape to try to show their client was entrapped.

Navy declares war on drug smugglers

From James Bone, New York

THE highlight of a port call by the Royal Navy at Miami these days is a cruise with a Dade County police patrol. The all-night tour brings young British sailors face to face with the world of Miami Vice, the television series about the dark side of the cocaine capital of America.

There were people lying on the streets; the cars were all burnt out; there were gangs on the street corners, and I saw a few dealing drugs," Able Seaman Michael Saunders, aged 19, from Gateshead, said after spending a night in the ghetto with a patrol car. "It was frightening."

The tour does not just feed the fantasies of would-be Don Johnsons. It also serves as part of a young seaman's education about the scourge of narcotics. On rejoining ship, Able Seaman Saunders becomes — like his police escort that night — another foot-soldier in the war against drugs. He spends two watches a day on board the HMS Newcastle scanning a radar screen for possible drug smugglers.

In the past 2½ years, the Royal Navy has played an increasing role in law enforcement efforts against suspected drug smugglers off the Florida coast. The Navy, fearing deep cuts in defence spending, has East-West tensions ease, has now apparently decided to promote its activities as an anti-drug agent. Journalists were invited to spend three days this week on HMS Newcastle off the Florida coast. The Type 42 destroyer will engage in two-week-long anti-drug operations during its four-month tour as the Navy's guardship in the West Indies. In the Gulf of Mexico this week, the 280-man British warship led a taskforce of US Coast Guard cutters, patrol boats and jets.

The American armed forces have become increasingly involved in anti-drug operations with the passing of the Cold War. The Pentagon has ambitious plans to draw a radar curtain across the southern flank of the United States to

keep drug traffickers out. Until those plans are finalized, however, important gaps remain. US Coast Guard officers estimate that between 10 and 20 drug-laden aircraft still get through every month, as do an unknown number of smugglers' boats.

US authorities praise the Royal Navy for helping to reduce drug trafficking in the areas where it operates. "We can credit just the presence of the Royal Navy with some route displacement and mode displacement, forcing the traffic out of boats," said Captain Jack Linnon, Chief of Staff of the 7th US Coast Guard District, based in Miami. He would like to see more anti-drug co-operation with the Royal Navy.

Commander Hugh Daglish, aged 39, from Birkenhead, Captain of HMS Newcastle, appeared keen to revive the Navy's old role of policing the high seas. Under international law, a warship can stop a pirate or a slave trader, but not a drug runner.

For HMS Newcastle, identifying suspicious boats and aircraft is the next best thing. "In this ship, there are plenty of people who have wives and children and think this is an evil trade and would be eager to have a part in disrupting it," Commander Daglish said. "I am keen to do it for that reason — drugs enslave people."



Commander Daglish: Keen to help stop the drug trade



Leg work: Dr Robert Full of Berkeley, California, putting a centipede and a cockroach through their paces. He has found much in common with them: cockroaches, beetles — and humans — use the same basic gait when running

WHO rejects 'Palestine' membership

Geneva

A NEW attempt by the Palestine Liberation Organization to have "Palestine" admitted as a member of the World Health Organization was rejected yesterday (Alan McGregor writes). By consensus, without a vote, the 1,200-

delegate assembly of the WHO's 167 member states adopted a resolution which, in effect, shelved consideration of the request by the PLO — now referred to as "Palestine" in UN documents — until the name is used for an internationally recognized state.

The resolution — sponsored by 27 countries, among them Egypt, France, West Germany, Spain, Sweden, and Britain — was the result of three days of negotiations since the assembly opened on Monday. It directs Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, the WHO director-

general, "to continue studies on the application of Palestine and to report to the World Health Assembly at the appropriate time" — the time being left discretionary. The US had threatened to cut off its contributions if the application succeeded.

Cemetery attack raises spectre of anti-Semitism

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

THE desecration of a Jewish cemetery in the south of France has revived fears that the growing strength of the extreme right here may set off a new wave of anti-Semitism. The concern of the Government was underlined by the immediate dispatch of M Pierre Joxe, the Interior Minister, to the scene of yesterday's outrage in Carpentras.

According to local police reports, more than 30 tombs were damaged. One grave had been opened and the recently buried corpse of an elderly man removed; it was found nearby, impaled on an umbrella handle. Investigators subsequently discovered four sets of footprints in the graveyard, but last night there had been no claim of responsibility for what appears to have been a methodical act of destruction.

The vandalism will send a shiver down the spine of Jewish community leaders who see in the renewed strength of M Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front a potent source of anti-Semitism. In one recent opinion poll, 77 per cent of National Front members questioned readily agreed that they hated Jewish people.

To judge by their leader's weakness for making grossly offensive public references to Jews, M Le Pen shares that view.

In the past few months, a number of respected French magazines have addressed the issue of anti-Semitism, most concluding that it is on the rise again. A recent issue of L'Espresso du Jeudi recalled that there used to be an old saying "Happy as a Jew in France". That no longer applied, the article concluded, when anti-Semitism had become "a form of political currency and a potent electoral asset".

Yesterday's incident in Carpentras gains extra significance from the fact that it is one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in France. The Jewish community there can trace its roots back to the 14th century.

The desecration of the graves was said to have been greeted with anger and dismay by local people of all religious backgrounds.

Last night, the organization SOS Racisme issued a statement expressing "revulsion" at the incident. "This profanation recalls the worst atrocities of the Nazis,"



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Peking frees 211 dissidents held in purge on protests

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

CHINA yesterday announced the release of 211 people, including six of the leading activists detained after anti-government demonstrations last summer.

The official news agency Xinhua said that "another 211 law breakers involved in the turmoil and counter-revolutionary rebellion last year have been given lenient treatment and released upon completion of investigations".

Among those released are six intellectuals, all of whom have been removed from their posts. They include two directors of social science research institutes, a publishing house editor, Mr Li Honglin, the president of a provincial academy of social sciences and former associate of the late party general secretary, Mr Hu Yaobang, and Mr Zhou Duo, a departmental president at the Stone Company, which was linked with disgraced party leader Mr Zhao Ziyang, and a colleague of Mr Wan

Runnan, who is now in exile in France.

But perhaps the best known of those freed is Ms Dai Qing, a journalist with the *Guangming* daily newspaper, a former rocket designer, and campaigner for environmental protection. She had been thought immune from arrest, given her close family connections to one of China's heroes of the revolution, General Ye Jiaoping. Her paper printed a letter of support for the students last year, signed by several intellectuals. She called for freedom of the press and, after the Peking massacre in June, resigned from the Communist Party.

Contacted by telephone yesterday, she refused even to say when she had been released, explaining only that she and the others in detention had been told to sign a document promising on their release not to answer journalists' questions or to accept long-distance telephone calls, the latter condition apparently to guard against contact with dissident groups abroad.

Detention will have entailed a heavy diet of political education, but the authorities are well aware that people of the experience and calibre of these intellectuals cannot easily be brainwashed.

An official press conference is planned at which some of those released will be expected to testify to the leniency of the Government. It is not clear whether they have written confessions or self-criticisms, but such documents usually play a large part in the Chinese legal system and can swing the balance between release and continued imprisonment.

A public security spokesman referred to those released as "law breakers", without

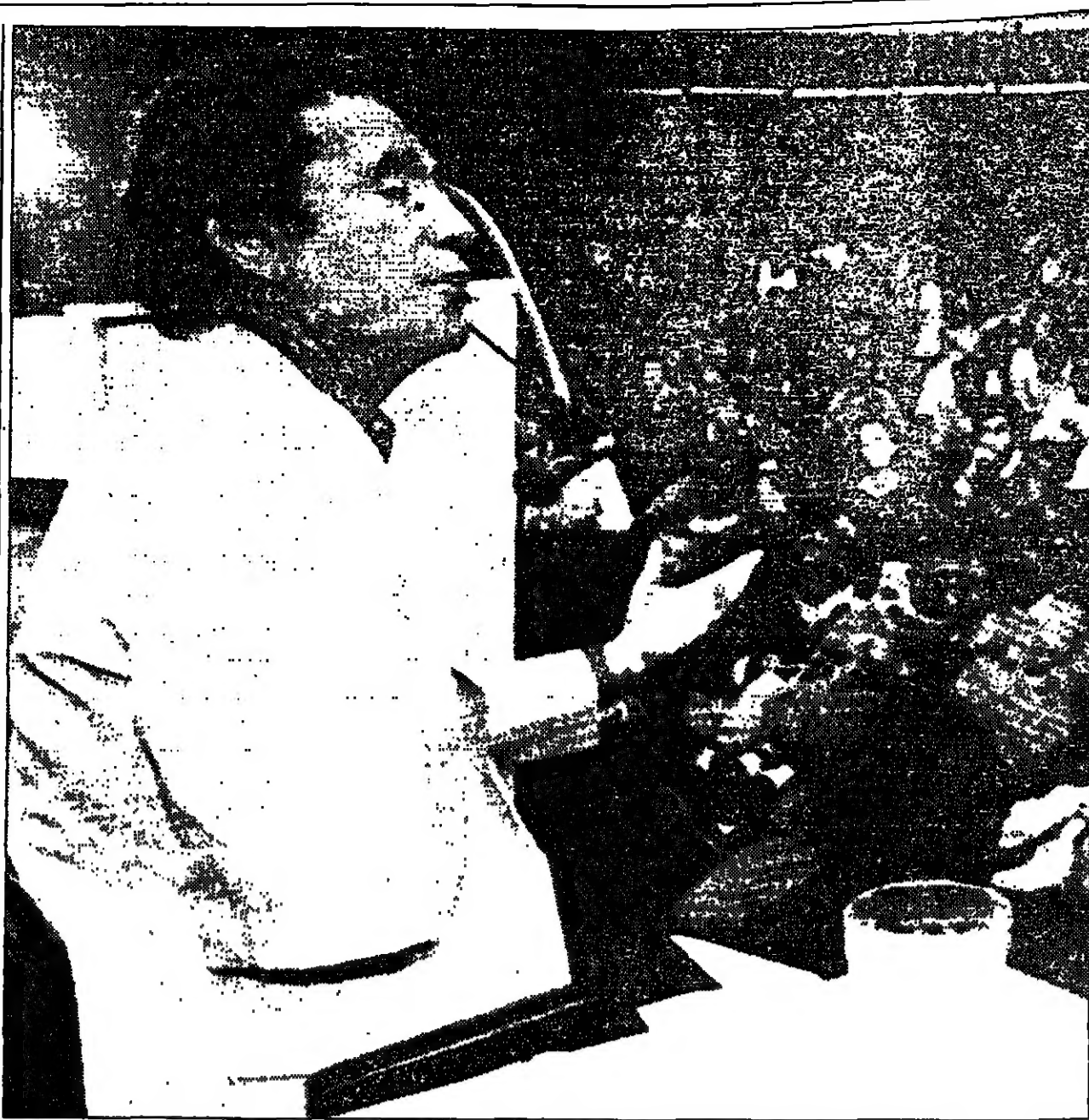
saying what law they had broken. Apparently they have not been cleared of criminal activities, and so can be re-arrested. But he guaranteed leniency "no matter which social stratum they belong to so long as they show a good attitude by admitting their criminal activities, make voluntary confessions and show repentance". However, "those who obstinately stick to a wrong course, refuse to repent and continue to do evil will surely be punished strictly in accordance with the law".

The report did not explain why the 211 had been held for 11 months without trial. Apparently many of the better-known intellectuals were kept in the relative comfort of guest houses rather than overcrowded prisons.

Xinhua said that a 413 more "law breakers" were still in detention, being investigated by the police or dealt with by the courts. Sources say that several of those involved in the unrest last year and subsequently arrested - including teachers and government officials - are to be charged with crimes of counter-revolution.

The release of prisoners now may be a calculated concession to international pressure as the date approaches when the US Government will decide whether to renew China's "Most Favoured Nation" status. China released 573 people in January and lifted martial law in Peking, and last month lifted martial law in Lhasa.

However, human rights organizations believe that about 7,000 people were arrested in connection with anti-government unrest last summer in Peking alone. The fate of most of them is unknown.



Mr Sachs addressing University of Cape Town students. He lost an arm in an assassination attempt last year

ANC still holding prisoners

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

A SENIOR official of the African National Congress has confirmed it is still holding prisoners, and said he was moved to tears by a recent visit to a detention camp. Mr Albie Sachs, a prominent white member of the ANC legal and constitutional affairs committee, made the disclosures in an address to students at the University of Cape Town on Wednesday night.

He admitted that the ANC had mistreated prisoners in the past, and said: "We still have people in detention, even now." However, Mr Sachs, a civil rights lawyer, said the organization had agreed on a code of conduct for dealing with prisoners and dissidents in 1985, and that he had drafted regulations forbidding torture and allowing suspects to defend themselves at special tribunals.

"If people come back and say they have been ill-treated by the ANC, it is not necessarily lies. But if people come back and say that is the ANC (policy), then that is lies," Mr Sachs said. He visited a detention camp shortly before returning to South Africa last Friday from 24 years in exile.

He declined to say where it is located, but dissidents claim there are ANC prison camps in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda.

Although the conditions were not as bad as he had feared, Mr Sachs said he had cried afterwards. "It was just sad to see that it was happening. When you join the ANC, you don't automatically become an angel."

Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC Deputy President, admitted last month that torture had taken place after a mutiny in the ANC armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, in Angola in 1984, but he said steps had been taken to ensure it was not repeated. However, Mr Steve Tshwete, a former ANC political commissar, subsequently argued that the persecution was justified by the exigencies of war.

"No army can play with

mutineers. We had to suppress the mutiny with all the force at our disposal, just as any army would do." Accusing Pretoria of sending agents to Zambia and Zimbabwe to assassinate ANC leaders, Mr Tshwete said: "We cannot be expected to play ball with agents of the enemy whose avowed aim is to eliminate leaders and members of the movement."

Mr Tshwete admitted there had been "excesses" during interrogations, but said it was not ANC policy to torture prisoners and that culprits had been "properly dealt with". Such statements have failed to reassure the survivors of the ANC crackdown, who have appealed to Mr Mandela to appoint a commission of inquiry into the affair.

In a recent letter to him, they claimed torture was continuing and made allegations

against Mr Joe Modise, the ANC commander and an influential member of the ANC executive committee. Mr Amos Maxongo, one of the dissidents, said in Nairobi that torture would not stop "as long as the people responsible for the atrocities are still in power." In an implicit reference to Mr Modise, he said it was disturbing that "enemies of democracy" were in the ANC delegation negotiating reforms with the Pretoria Government.

According to dissidents now in Kenya, hundreds of their comrades were detained and tortured in two camps after the 1984 mutiny. They claim they were tied to trees and flogged with whips, locked in metal containers in searing heat, and repeatedly kicked and beaten. They say at least 60 men were killed or were

missing, and they believe about 100 are still in detention in Angola and Uganda.

The survivors include Mr Luvo Mbengo, aged 28, a former ANC guerrilla who bears numerous scars inflicted by both South African riot police bullets as well as through torture by his own commanders. The affair has been reported prominently by pro-government newspapers in South Africa. However, it is felt that Mr Mandela's honesty and Mr Sachs' compassion have defused a potentially damaging controversy.

● **Mandela visit:** Mr Mandela is to address a special session of the Irish Parliament during a three-day visit in July. The Dail will assemble on a Monday - not a normal sitting day - to hear the Deputy President of the ANC.

Zimbabwe leaders split over one-party state

Harare - A split has appeared in the highest ranks of Zimbabwe's ruling party over plans for a one-party state, according to reports in the local press this week.

They said President Mugabe reaffirmed his commitment to a one-party state during a lunch with businessmen in Geneva, but that Mr Bernard Chidzero, the Finance Minister, told an interviewer in New York that moves away from one-party systems in Africa should be encouraged.

On Wednesday the Government-controlled newspaper, *The Herald*, quoted Mr Mugabe as saying that a one-party system would give Zimbabwe greater peace and greater democracy. His sister paper, *The Chronicle*, published in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city, quoted Mr Chidzero as saying: "In my

part of the world there are many countries which are one-party states, and changes are beginning to take place even there. I think this should be encouraged and we ought to learn a great deal from what has happened in Eastern Europe."

Apart from his key position as Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Mr Chidzero is chairman of the joint development committee of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In an editorial comment, *The Chronicle* described his statement as a thinly veiled but craftily worded broadside against one-party states, and "a warning... directed at us".

Zimbabwe's multi-party democracy has been entrenched in the Constitution since independence 10 years ago, but President Mugabe

now has the power to change it to the one-party state which he has repeatedly said he wants.

He told the businessmen in Geneva during a meeting to woo investors that the West "cannot really teach us democracy. They have no lessons to teach us. They were our colonizers. They never taught us democracy."

However Mr Mugabe, an avowed Marxist, said that the East European one-party systems which had recently crumbled were completely unacceptable. The parties had imposed themselves on the people, while in Zimbabwe a single-party state would be brought about by consent and not by compulsion, he said.

The Chronicle said Zimbabwe was at a crossroads: "A wrong turn and we are forever doomed." It noted that "investors are scared stiff of one-party states". (AFP)

Seoul clamps down on student unrest

From Joe Joseph, Seoul

PROTESTING students who brought chaos to central Seoul on Wednesday night would have found it hard to repeat their performance yesterday, even if they had had the will to do so. Caught out once, South Korea's riot police, their numbers swelled here and there by denim-dressed students on national service, were on every street corner.

As dusk fell last night the main square of the city centre, which 24 hours earlier had been smothered in tear gas that choked staff in luxury hotels, was too crowded with police and armoured vans to allow any room for protesters to gather in knots of more than two or three. The main avenues leading from the centre were jammed with the usual rush-hour traffic.

The Government of President Roh Tae Woo - who has failed to control the in-fighting within his Democratic Liberal Party, or land price speculation and the economic malaise that are between them angering his critics - vowed yesterday to act quickly and harshly to stamp out any repeat of Wednesday's havoc, the biggest demonstrations in more than a year.

The threat seemed to persuade 51 striking shipyard workers in the south-eastern city of Ulsan to end their 13-day vigil on top of a tall crane, and bring an end to the industrial action that has handicapped many of the country's export industries in recent weeks. But radicals promised to stage more protests when they regain their strength.

"All appears to be calm and back to normal," Western diplomats said earlier yesterday. "Just a whiff of tear gas in the air and a few broken paving stones. It always happens in the spring. The demonstrations look nasty, they make good television, but no one gets really hurt. The students go back to studying and then they take government jobs."

But when 92,000 people take to the streets and 350 police are injured, it is clear that all is not going smoothly for Mr Roh, who has cancelled most foreign trips to cope with the outbursts. He has also promised to make amends by the end of the year, ending the bickering that has undermined his Government's popularity, putting the faltering economy back on course and reversing the country's rising crime rate.

What prevents South Korea's middle class joining the rebellion and turning Mr Roh's headache into a nightmare is the broad lack of confidence in the opposition's ability to form an alternative government, and the feeling that the economy and its tottering stock market are just going through a sticky patch.

But the Government is not trusting to fate alone. "We've tried to refrain from using the police force on campuses until now," Mr Yi Jong Nam, the Justice Minister, said yesterday. "But students throwing petrol bombs and causing violent protests are fanning social chaos. In future we will use the police force immediately inside campuses to disperse illegal protests."

The Government yesterday apologized to the US for the damage caused to its information centre.

Chamorro offers amnesty

Managua

PRESIDENT Chamorro's National Opposition Union alliance passed an amnesty Bill in the Nicaraguan Parliament pardoning all political crimes committed before the law takes effect.

The vote on the Bill was 52-39 with the Sandinista minority opposing the legislation, saying it would pardon crimes committed during the regime of the dictator, Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown in the 1979 Sandinista-led revolution. Señora Chamorro submitted the law to the Parliament to promote national reconciliation. (Reuters)

Biblical protest

Lagos - Hundred of women carrying Bibles and babies stormed a police headquarters in the Nigerian city of Kaduna, demanding the release of detained Christian leaders. (Reuters)

Women bishops

Helsinki - Finland's Evangelical Lutheran Church has voted by a narrow margin to allow women to become bishops. (Reuters)

Gibraltar visit

Gibraltar - Sir Derek Refell, the Governor of Gibraltar, paid an official call on General Carlos Lopez Poza, his military counterpart in Spain's neighbouring Campo area, renewing links severed 25 years ago during the Franco dictatorship.

Punjab killings

Delhi - Sikh militants shot dead Mr Kartar Chand, a Communist Party leader in the Indian state of Punjab, a day after eight people died in violence linked to the campaign by Sikhs for a separate state. (AFP)

Kurdish raids

Diyarbakir - Kurdish guerrillas killed six village guards and three railway workers in separate attacks in south-east Turkey, according to official sources here.



Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, during his fast at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial in Delhi

Gandhi fasts on comeback trail

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

FOR the first time in his political career, Mr Rajiv Gandhi went on a protest last yesterday, sitting cross-legged on the ground for 12 hours at Rajghat, where the Mahatma was cremated. Hundreds of supporters sat with him under a big canopy shade. Signs proclaimed that this was the 133rd anniversary of the first War of Independence in 1857, an auspicious day on which to draw attention to outside threats to India.

The former Prime Minister, who arrived at Rajghat at 7 am, said his objective was to create "mass awareness" of the challenges to India. He was obviously referring to Pakistan's alleged support for secessionist movements in Punjab and Kashmir.

His Congress (I) Party organized 12-hour fasts all over the country to draw attention to the threats to India's "unity and integrity". Fasting is a traditional form of protest in India: the Mahatma used hunger strikes against friend and foe, and the former Prime Minister thus thought it fitting to observe his fast at a cremation site. "I am here to

make people aware of the dangers into which this Government is leading the country," Mr Gandhi said.

Asked if he thought there would be war with Pakistan, he said: "It is unfortunate that the Government seems to be taking us in that direction." The situation in Kashmir was "very bad". He said that because of light security in the valley his party had been unable to confirm the situation there.

The Congress party's day-long protest was designed to steal some of the thunder from the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been using the Kashmir crisis to stir up Hindu nationalism.

Despite many plots to depose Mr Gandhi from the Congress leadership after his electoral defeat, it is now apparent that he will lead the party into the general election. He is extremely popular in most of southern India. In the north, where his party was wiped out in November, disillusion with the Government has rapidly set in, raising Congress's hopes of a comeback.

Black comedy in greener Delhi

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

DELHI, labelled the world's fourth most polluted city after Kuwait and the Chinese cities of Shenyang and Xian, has launched a vast clean-up programme.

Police are halting thousands of scooters, cars and lorries daily to enforce a law on exhaust emissions. The city's ancient buses, which always travel in a shroud of their own black smoke, have escaped the purge - doubtless because the Government owns them.

There was hardly a motorist in Delhi who knew that such a law existed until the authorities launched a surprise assault on rush-hour traffic. Judging by readers' complaints in daily newspapers, the exercise has turned into something of a black comedy.

One man took his car to a test centre where it was deemed to be emitting double the permissible gases. He had the engine overhauled, only to be told when it was retested that it was now three times over the limit. He was annoyed but not surprised: few things in India, after all, are ever precise.

Delhi's status as one of the dirtiest places on Earth was announced in Parliament by Mrs Maneka Gandhi, Min-

ister of State for Environment and Forests - India's first "green" politician, whose fierce determination to clean up the worst ravages of pollution are drawing international respect.

Nobody really needed the World Health Organization to declare the Delhi air to be filthy: everybody who lives here talks endlessly about the choking atmosphere, which is worst in winter when smoke from wood fires belches from every hut. Aircraft are frequently diverted from the international airport in winter because of "fog" which is, in fact, a dense blanket of traffic fumes and smoke.

Delhi traffic police have recently issued 21,500 warning notices to motorists whose vehicles supposedly exceed legal emission levels. Policemen have a vested interest in cleaning up the city air, since many of them stand all day at congested road junctions swallowing potentially fatal amounts of poisonous gases.

Mrs Gandhi, the widow of Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son and political heir of Mrs Indira Gandhi, has quickly gained a reputation as a young firebrand. Not so long ago she stormed around Delhi Zoo,

where conditions are diabolical, and ranted for hours about the treatment of the animals. "Our zoos are worse than anywhere," she said. "The whole structure is to please people. There is no science, no education facility, only amusement. You poke things at birds, feed plastic to the hippopotamuses."

She is the first politician in India to talk seriously about the environment, a subject that is low on the political priority list because there is no serious green movement, and therefore no votes in it.

Mrs Gandhi, aged 33, who lives with her son, Varun, aged 10, does not mince words. Asked why government-funded efforts to clean up the River Ganges had not worked, for example, she said: "Because 50 per cent of the money was pinched." She told a local magazine that industry could "get away with everything". A lunatic scheme was under way for putting heavy industry in Kashmir, which would destroy India because it would immediately change weather patterns.

Since Mrs Gandhi took over in December, the moribund Environment Ministry has exploded into activity. Scores of

projects have been initiated, involving animal care as well as the environment. The ministry has taken the first steps to try to introduce lead-free petrol into India, for example. There are also moves to ban the liberal use of pesticides, including DDT.

Laws banning smoking in some public places take effect soon, and raids are being conducted in many parts of the country to halt the booming trade in animal skins.

● **Storm damage:** A cyclone lashed south-eastern coastal regions of India yesterday, killing at least 54 people and devastating roads, railways, telecommunications and large numbers of buildings. Some areas recorded 16 inches of rain during a 20-hour downpour.

Before the storm arrived more than 150,000 people were evacuated from their homes in the state of Andhra Pradesh, which bore the brunt of the damage. Mr M. Chenna Reddy, the Chief Minister, said the evacuation saved many lives.

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TOO FAR AND YET TOO NEAR

Any reaction to Mr Michael Heseltine's intervention in the poll tax debate in *The Times* yesterday must fall into two parts. The first concerns its significance in the now phoney war of the Tory succession. The second concerns the merit of the proposals themselves. The two parts are obviously connected, despite Mr Heseltine's protests to the contrary.

The first can be briskly dispatched. Mr Heseltine's immediate hope of becoming Tory leader turned on Mrs Thatcher being induced to retire before the next election by a combination of poor economic indicators and miserable public opinion polls.

The Conservatives' less than wholly appalling local election results have dented that hope. The clear indication from Downing Street is that Mrs Thatcher has not the remotest intention of going away. Since the Treasury is, however misguidedly, about to hurl money at the poll tax and since governments tend to improve their ratings as a general election approaches, Mrs Thatcher can take some comfort. She is leader and, as the saying goes, there is no vacancy. By dashing into open ground, Mr Heseltine merely presents himself as a better target for her friends.

This leaves the merits of his argument. Are his ideas for reforming the poll tax sound? And are they likely to help his party (and ironically Mrs Thatcher) to recover some popularity before the next election? He made three central proposals, all familiar and all stopping short of what many thought he believed and would demand, namely outright abolition.

The first is for unitary local authorities, to render poll tax accountability more direct. This idea goes back to the Redcliffe-Maud commission on local government and has much theoretical merit to commend it—indeed the Department of the Environment has been pondering making the districts single-tier authorities for planning purposes.

Unfortunately, it would mean the abolition of the counties, which would be a huge, costly and certainly unpopular upheaval to the British Constitution. Any Government prepared to undertake such a drastic reform to help make poll tax more palatable would be better advised to go the whole hog to abolition.

Much the same applies to Mr Heseltine's second proposal, which calls for additional local elections for councils who plan to spend above their assessed "standard spending" level. This was put (by Mr Heseltine) to the Cabinet in 1981 and rejected, although as an alternative to poll tax capping it has considerable merit. Spendthrift councils would be held super-accountable to their electors. But while this might improve local government it is hardly a reform of the poll tax.

Controversial primary legislation would be needed, the last thing the Government now wants. And local councils might retort that what is sauce for the local goose should be sauce for the Westminster gander. Should ministers be forced to seek re-election when central government defies its manifesto and makes inflation?

As for the tax itself, Mr Heseltine's only salvo is "banding", the favourite remedy of the more liberal Tory backbenchers. The objections have often been rehearsed: banding either produces big steps with severe poverty traps, or is simply another income tax over which central government would be bound to exercise effective control.

The essence of local taxation is that it should reflect, to some degree, ability to pay, but without simply mirroring national taxation. The customary basis is for a local tax based on property value, still in force in most other industrialised countries, which Britain has now abandoned. Until this sensible and longstanding tax base is re-established, British local finance is unlikely to recover clarity or popularity.

There is no dodging this issue, however imaginative the devices officials at the Environment Department may invent to keep poll tax levels down next year. The old way was, after all, the best. Mr Heseltine should have nailed his colours firmly to that mast. His intervention in a most important debate was spirited, but his proposals would not achieve their declared aim of swiftly winning old and new Tory voters "back to their natural political home". He may have gone too far for his political health; he has gone not far enough to offer an escape from the poll tax.

NATO FAMILY PLANNING

Short-range nuclear weapons have been essential, if controversial, instruments of Nato strategy since the doctrine of flexible response was adopted more than 20 years ago. Their future in Europe cannot be resolved in isolation. This week's meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group in Canada has, however, underlined a number of realities.

The first is that land-based nuclear artillery on the Continent has clearly outlived both purpose and welcome. President Bush's decision, a week before the defence ministers gathered in Alberta, to drop plans for the modernisation of the Lance missile and nuclear shells recognized that the changes in Eastern Europe have made such weapons politically obsolete.

To aim nuclear missiles at Eastern European countries, yesterday's enemies but tomorrow's friends, made no more sense to Washington than to Bonn. That political argument carries the day for now, but if the defence ministers are to eat further into Nato's graduated range of responses against danger, they need to be clear about their reasoning.

The second is that there may be prudent strategic arguments in favour of some weapons which are unacceptable to electorates. Some of Nato's defence measures have now to be rethought, because the range of possible threats is quite different. But the dramatic Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe and the *de facto* dissolution of the Warsaw Pact do not abolish military danger in the East. The Soviet Union will remain a giant armed power. Mr Gorbachev's more pacific stance does not of itself destroy the case for flexible response.

The Dutch, the West Germans, the Belgians and Italians (in approximately that order of enthusiasm) confirmed this week their anxiety to negotiate the "third zero", consigning short-

range weapons to the dustbin. Medium and intermediate-range missiles, the first and second "zeros" in Nato parlance, were dispatched there under the 1987 INF Treaty.

For Nato to scrap all such weapons unilaterally, which is what the Dutch defence minister seemed to want, would be moving unnecessarily fast towards disarmament. With a Nato summit being planned for early July preceded by at least three high-level meetings, there are abundant opportunities ahead to decide how—and at what pace—to move.

Nor should a reduction of ground-based nuclear artillery mean that Nato should rule out all shorter-range nuclear options. A number of analysts has argued for some time that, given such a brand-new air-launched missile as the American TASM there was never a compelling need to replace Lance.

So long as there remains a case for alliance nuclear weapons with shorter range than intercontinental missiles, that hardware should be the best available. Second-rate weapons are a waste of money.

Britain's fleet of Tornado strike aircraft is at present equipped with nuclear free-fall bombs. But these oblige the air crew to fly directly over the target—a hazardous operation given the sharpness of modern air defences. Whatever the alliance's future role, there remains a strong case for updating the RAF (and other air forces) with a weapon with a range of 250 to 300 miles.

With the old strategic certainties crumbling, the habits of thought which they bred will go too. But leaving one advanced weapon on the drawing board retains some of the threatened flexibility of Nato's doctrine. The air-launched option preserves a wide set of choices at a moment when breadth of choice is all-important.

RURITANIAN RESTORATIONS

The Prince and Princess of Wales returned from Budapest yesterday with the cheers of the populace ringing in their ears. Theirs was not an easy task: to carry off the first official royal visit beyond the former Iron Curtain without occasioning controversy, while demonstrating an authentic grasp of their hosts' totalitarian experience. Their performance was a remarkable advertisement of the virtues of constitutional monarchy.

The trick is to be at once political and unpolitical. The cogency and force of the Prince's public exhortation of communism exceeded even Hungarian expectations; but he steered clear of the muddy political waters through which post-communist Hungary is now obliged to wade. Prince Charles was there primarily to understand and to encourage. On such questions as the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, he wisely kept his own counsel. His finely judged balancing act may well have left Hungarians wondering whether the vacuum at the pinnacle of their new republic might be filled by an hereditary monarch.

In Hungary's case, there would seem to be a candidate with all the necessary *gravitas*. Dr Otto von Habsburg, the septuagenarian heir of the last king to wear the Crown of St Stephen, is an MEP for a Bavarian constituency. His visits to Hungary in the past two years have proved to Hungary that monarchy is as alive as he is. There was a move last autumn to put Dr von Habsburg forward as a presidential candidate; but he politely declined the proposition. His son, Karl, has entered Austrian politics—a serious drawback—and lacks his father's deep knowledge of Hungary's language and people.

There is another complication involved in a future Habsburg restoration in Hungary. A future Habsburg as head of state in Budapest would, Habsburg as head of state in Budapest would, be regarded as a unfairly but inevitably, be regarded as the beneficiary of the Dual Monarchy's overthrow.

Romanians have not forgotten that the authoritarian Horthy regime seized the first opportunity to enlist German help in order to recover territory from Romania. With German reunification in train, a Habsburg restoration would, at the moment, send the wrong signals. Scarcely less complex obstacles await restorationists in Romania or Yugoslavia.

None of this invalidates the monarchical principle as a potential force for stability in Central Europe. Where national sentiments are liable to excess, the cosmopolitan freemasonry of royalty would be a useful moderating influence, as it was before 1914. Where the evolution of party politics has been artificially arrested, there are sound arguments in favour of a head of state, embodying statehood, whose independence of party is compulsory and whose succession is predictable and automatic.

There are also good historical precedents. The handling by King Juan Carlos of the transition from Francoism to democracy—a sterling example of monarchical professionalism—is spoken of with keen appreciation throughout Central Europe. The British monarchy has suffered only one comparatively brief interregnum, but its history has frequently demonstrated the advantages of elevating the supreme office in the State above party strife. A good monarch need not be a "charismatic" figure; and genuine charisma, of the kind exemplified by President Havel or Mr Lech Walesa, is too rare to be relied upon.

During his visit, Prince Charles reminded his own countrymen of the qualities of endurance shown by the Hungarians, and asked whether the British would have displayed equal fortitude. The Prince's own compassion, and his repugnance for tyranny, help to explain why the British have never been forced to suffer the indignities borne so nobly by Hungarians.

Why a surgeon says farewell

From Mr Richard G. Notley

Sir, Much of the purpose of my professional life was destroyed today.

I am a consultant urological surgeon—a waterworks specialist. Twenty years ago I was a senior lecturer in a famous academic department of urology. I decided that my true vocation in urology lay not in academic study, but in specialist surgical service in a non-teaching hospital.

I came to Guildford to create a specialist department of urology in a district general hospital that had no such specialist service. In 1990 the creation of the department of urology in the Royal Surrey County Hospital marked its final completion with the appointment of a senior registrar to complement its two consultants, its specialist ward and specialist theatre with its specially trained staff.

The new outpatient clinic will complete the unit, and that is in the second phase of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, due for hand-over this month. The department has already achieved a reputation for high standard of urology throughout the United Kingdom—the climax of 20 years devoted and unremitting labour.

Today the urology ward was closed—indeed as far as I can tell—and the staff dispersed because there is insufficient cash in the district budget, in spite of savings in real terms of £5 million by the district over the last 10 years, achieved by careful planning, saving and efficient work—in all almost 40 per cent of the surgical beds have been closed.

The new outpatient clinic cannot be opened for the same reason—the second phase of the Royal Surrey will remain unused. The financial group of specialists urology beds have been taken into the end of the car, nose and throat ward (which has suffered the same fate).

There are now insufficient beds for urological surgery to fulfil the training requirements of my junior staff. When they are removed my colleague and I will be unable to cope alone. Then there will be no more specialised urological surgery in Guildford.

Today I went to bid farewell to my ward, to offer what comfort I could to my demoralised staff, and to try to explain to my worried patients that we will continue to do our best to give them the special care which they deserve.

I do not ask anyone to weep for me, but weep for my patients and those across the country whose service is being dissipated in the same way.

Yours sincerely,
R. G. NOTLEY,
Spindewood, 59 Pewley Hill,
Guildford, Surrey,
May 6.

World Service threat

From Mrs Ann Carpenter

Sir, "BBC World Service threatened". Under this headline last week (April 26) Richard Evans reported on the exodus of staff and a big rent increase at Bush House which could mean "severe reductions of hours, services and quality".

Today (May 1) the BBC Director General states in an advertisement in your paper that "Radio in the Nineties will offer listeners greater choice and variety than ever before" and that "BBC Radio has never been healthier or more confident as it extends its range while maintaining its unique quality".

Apparently extending its range does not include keeping the World Service wave-lengths. This is not the first time that the importance of the World Service has been minimised by those who think only in monetary terms. Surely it comes into the category of those necessities which must be kept whether profitable or not.

Yours faithfully,
ANN CARPENTER,
70 Ryecroft Road, SW16,
May 1.

Bristol's attractions

From the Dean of Bristol

Sir, Richard West (report, May 2) offers an excessively dismal view of Bristol. I have been Dean of Bristol for nearly three years, and still see the city through a newcomer's eyes. Certainly, and sadly, I can recognise much of his description. But he has omitted a great deal. Bristol Cathedral, for instance, is developing an active and growing ministry to the city and diocese.

Five modern buildings are being erected and old ones renovated. Among notable additions are the Spectrum Building on the edge of St Paul's, and most recently Lloyds Bank on Canons Marsh. The renovations in Old Market Street have saved some exquisite small properties and, adjacent to the cathedral, is the major refurbishment of the splendid Victorian building to become the new Swallow Royal Hotel. Brunel House, which is occupied by the City Planning Department, has been restored and will in due course overlook a redesigned and elegant square. The sad story of indiscriminate demolition has come to an end.

Local associations are beginning to flourish again, and the number of companies relocating here—100 in the city centre alone in the last 12 months—is impressive evidence of the city's attraction to commerce.

Richard West ends with a misapprehension of Cardinal Hume's

Powers to contain football violence

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Rossendale (Lancashire)

Sir, News of the futility of having 45 different police forces going their own sweet way better shown than in the preparation for the potential Leeds riot at Bournemouth.

Contrary to what the Home Secretary says (report, May 9) the chief constables have always had powers to change days and kick-out times at football matches. Earlier this season the South Yorkshire Chief Constable compelled the Sheffield United v Leeds Boxing Day flashpoint derby to start at noon. There was no trouble.

Three years ago he made the Leeds v Coventry semi-final move to a Sunday with a morning kick-off. Again no trouble. Mr Brian Wright, the Dorset Chief Constable, has exactly the same powers to overrule the football authorities, but perhaps because the Dorset police do not have the same experience, they were not used.

Mr Waddington, the Home Secretary, must be having difficulty swallowing his humber too. Last July the Government quailed before a football Bill through the House setting up a football licensing authority. I sat on the committee. The Labour Party supported the proposal, and even asked that knowledgeable supporters should be represented too.

This licensing authority would have the powers to overrule the Football League. It would liaise with the police and local authorities, and act as a safety and law and order body.

Yet now, 10 months later, we are still waiting for the Home Office to announce its membership and get it started. There is no excuse for this delay and incompetence. Why are the police and Home Office not using the powers they already possess?

Yours sincerely,
JOE ASHTON,
House of Commons.

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Your leading article today (May 7), which stated that last weekend's football violence "has at last reignited the argument for preventive action", rightly targets the drink area but ignores the ultimate remedy which the Government and the lower courts have failed to apply, after having it handed to them on a plate by the Court of Appeal over six years ago.

On January 12, 1984, in the appeal of *R v Wood*, a strong court led by Lord Justice Lawton explained, when dealing with an under-21 convicted offender, how the court inferred from the continuance of violence at football grounds that those who have a propensity to

It is about time the same happened here.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS HENDERSON,
St Martin's Vicarage,
25 Birch Grove,
Acton, W3,
May 7.

From the Head Master of Westminster School

Sir, I wonder if other readers share my response to the "detailed minutes" of a staff meeting at Church House (report, May 7) to be sent apparently to the Crown Appointments Commission, together with a covering letter from the General Synod's outgoing secretary-general. This disconcertingly insensitive expression of views will cause embarrassment both to those on the favoured list to succeed Dr Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury and those perhaps fortunate enough to be omitted.

No doubt the future archbishop will forgive (or forget); meanwhile, perhaps the commission will not be unduly swayed by the voice of those who will one day be that archbishop's good and loyal servants.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. SUMMERSCALE,
Head Master,
Westminster School,
17 Dean's Yard, SW1.

War horses

From Mr Frank Seely

Sir, After the surrender of Jerusalem to General Allenby on December 9, 1917, our brigade (the 22nd Mounted), together with the other regiments of the Yeomanry Mounted Division, were withdrawn to Askelon where we spent Christmas and gradually nursed our horses back to fitness after their gruelling time in the Judean Hills.

Out of the blue, we were told that our horses were to be handed over to the Indian cavalry and that we were to be sent to France and retrained as machine-gunners. A ceremony was held at Gaza to mark the occasion.

Items of saddlery and spurs etc. were buried and a wooden memorial erected bearing the inscription (much abbreviated): "Stranger pause and shed a tear—A regiment's heart lies buried here". Thus ended the history of the Lincolnshire Yeomanry as a mounted cavalry unit—founded in 1901 from Lord Yarborough's Light Horse.

Yours etc.,
FRANK SEELY,
4 Drax Court,
Middle Rasen,
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire,
May 1.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—(071) 782 5046.

Curriculum for public schools

From Mr J. Richard Watson

Sir, Dr Arthur Hearnden, General Secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council, advises public schools to adopt the National Curriculum (report, early editions, May 5). Having successfully taught in State schools for 24 years I would advise fellow teachers to be circumspect.

Many of the National Curriculum prescriptions are statements of the self-evident or else give instructions on how to re-invent the wheel. The documentation has been devised and written by escapes from the classroom—non-teaching educationists, superannuated dons, LEA advisers and HMIs. By all means skim through the glossy brochures, gutting the best and dropping the rest. There will be useful material, some of it produced at great expense like the secondary attainment targets—£14 million in the current year.

The key issue for public schools is that if they accept the National Curriculum they will also find recommended time allocations for subjects and that some areas—classics, children with special needs, drama and physical education—are not included or else dealt with in a perfunctory way.

The strength of all schools, State or independent, is the extent to which teachers are permitted to devise what is most appropriate for their pupils; public schools make a point of stressing particular areas of expertise, whether it be music, drama, the Combined Cadet Force or a wide range of foreign languages. The National Curriculum runs counter to all this tradition and deserves a place on the back burner (or a "low saliency rating", to use the public relations jargon whose work it largely is).

Yours faithfully,
J. RICHARD WATSON,
152 Windy Hill Lane,
Marble-by-the-Sea, Cleveland,
May 6.

Breast screening risks

From Miss Nella Marcus

Sir, Mr Norman Dacey (May 2) presents alarming facts from the United States where, in 1971, a warning of probable adverse consequences of annual breast screening was given, because of the X-rays involved. Mr Dacey claims that in the United States "the disease (breast cancer) is now epidemic and out of control".

In the United Kingdom the Forster report (December, 1986) concluded that "screening should eventually reduce deaths from breast cancer by at least one third in the 50-64 age group". The British programme with three-yearly screening was based on this report. Now we hear from Professor Michael Baum (report, April 20) that in Britain younger women are also being screened and according to Mr Dacey, that regular screening can—and in the United States does—contribute to the incidence of breast cancer.

On the one hand we are told that vigilance is important. Europe Against Cancer Year in 1989 emphasised this approach, and national mass cervical and breast-screen programmes provided the means. Now we find that in the case of breast screening, it may not be such a good idea after all. What is the public to do?

Yours faithfully,
NELLA MARCUS,
Garden Flat,
22 Upper Park Road, NW3.

Cash for care

From the General Secretary of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Sir, This foundation has consistently urged the need to earmark special funds to implement the Care in the Community programme. We are therefore delighted that this proposal has been successfully moved in the Lords committee stage (Parliament, May 9) very much along the lines originally proposed by Sir Roy Griffiths in his report, "Agenda for Action".

If Government seeks to restore the original proposals, supposedly for more flexible finance, let them remember all those local authorities who do not give a high priority to the needs of disabled people; and also that smaller number of authorities who do not seem to welcome the involvement of voluntary activity in this aspect of community life.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HARDWICK,
General Secretary,
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation,
26-29 Mansel Street, SW1,
May 9.

London calling

From Mr Richard Haworth

Sir, Could not a telephone handset be designed with two further buttons marked 071 and 081 respectively, so that each of these digital trios could be dialled with a single prod?

Yours faithfully,
R. J. HAWORTH,
3 Hare Court,
Temple, EC4,
May 9.

From Mr Calvin Haley

Sir, It would now seem appropriate to dispense with the phrase "at 6s and 7s" and replace it with "at 7s and 8s".

Yours faithfully,
KALVIN HALEY,
187 High Street,
Saint Mary Cray,
Orpington, Kent,
May 8.

ARTS

John Russell Taylor finds contemporary British sculpture full of references to, and influences of, the past

Continuity, not conformity

Time was when the content of a show of new British sculpture would have held few surprises. There would probably have been something like the work of David Thompson and Lisa Delany, who are exhibiting along with Robert Tegg, a specialist photographer of sculpture, at the Morley Gallery, London SE1 (071-928 8501), until May 17, in a touring show called *The Human Image as Sculpture*. Thompson is primarily a carver, easing traditionally conceived human forms out of the living stone with considerable skill; Delany is primarily a modeller, converting human form into elegant, slightly Deco bronze reliefs or free-standing figures and groups. There is little about their work which would have seemed out of line 50 years ago.

But they are not mindless traditionalists. Thompson (born 1939) spent most of his working life on abstraction, and only recently reverted to the styles of sculpture he learned at art school. Delany (born 1965) is obviously at an age where she takes pluralism as her natural right: she can, without too much heart-searching, sculpt in any style she likes.

The only other thing to be said about them is that they are both very good at what they are now doing. No doubt their confidence is further bolstered by the reappearance in the last few years of a number of other sculptors who find satisfaction (and presumably purchasers) in developing styles that hark back to before the revolution wrought in British sculpture by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth — let alone any of the more recent revolutions.

We have already got used to Glyn Williams, an unmistakable disciple of Epstein as well as one of the coming men. But it still administers a shock to the system to encounter, unprepared, the new "In Defence of Liberty" memorial by Eric Stanford, unveiled last Saturday in Reading Civic Centre.

The basic premise of the memorial is a trifle bizarre in 1990: a commemoration of the three Reading men who died in Spain during the Civil War as members of the International Brigade. Even the Valley of the Fallen is now a memorial to all those who died in the Spanish Civil War.

The style chosen for the sculpture is almost exactly what Epstein

GALLERIES

might have come up with had he been commissioned in 1939: it is a two-sided relief with a mourning mother holding a dead child on one side and a profile of the three dead soldiers on the other, all carved in Portland stone. Even with a slight sense of time-war, it is impressive.

Post-Modernism or no, not all of our younger sculptors have turned the clock back so uncompromisingly. Kim Lin, showing at the Waddington Galleries, London W1 (071-437 8611), until May 19, persists in the kind of carved abstraction David Thompson has recently forsaken. This is a move back towards a kind of formality not so visible in her earlier work: these works are very definitely part of the only slightly more modern tradition initiated by Barbara Hepworth. They are exquisitely crafted and make the most of the least, the minute distinctions of surface curve and the tiniest incisions, which somehow suggest that these rocks of ages have sometimes been cleft for us, sometimes simply left for wind and water to do their slow work.

Zadek Ben David, Neil Jeffries and Cathy de Monchaux all belong to younger generations yet,

and all make use of the possibilities inherent in pluralism to the full. Zadek Ben David, showing at the Benjamin Rhodes Gallery, London W1 (071-434 1768), until June 2, has been making his own way for some time, consistent yet quite unpredictable in the way he has developed. His sculptures have been getting noticeably lighter and lighter in weight (physical weight, that is, not psychological).

Most of the work he showed in the Israeli pavilion of the Venice Biennale two years ago was concerned with solid silhouette: forms cut out of metal rather as the silhouette portrait artist would cut out of black paper. His new pieces are even less substantial: drawings in the air, they twist and fuse slim bands of metal into shapes inspired by magnetic fields, or wittily construct what one expects to be two-dimensional diagrams in three. The show is elegant and inventive, and the news that Ben David is moving towards an increased use of lights, shadows and moving parts is intriguing.

Neil Jeffries has always been, in a very different sense, a sculptural cartoonist. His show at Flowers East, London N8 (081-985 3333), until May 27, does not perhaps add anything new to his box of tricks, but is thought-provoking.

John Russell Taylor's choice of other London shows

UNASHAMED: In exchange for lending his "Pebbles" series to the recent Velázquez show at the Prado, the National Gallery now has on loan Goya's *Naked and Clothed Majas*. (071-939 3321) until July 1.

FREE-FOR-ALL: Many German artists now in their series or seventies were deeply affected by Abstract Expressionism, Action Painting and such. "The Art of German Drawing" is at the Goethe Institute (071-581 3344) until June 15.

FROM THE NORTH: Several working-class realist artists look in "A Northern School", an exhibition of 20th-century Lancashire art, Boundary Gallery (061-624 1126) until May 25.

WAR WORK: Mervyn Peake was belatedly enrolled as a War Artist during the Second World War. The imagery of the pictures of glass-blowing he then produced is haunting and unmistakably his. Imperial War Museum (071-735 8822) until September 16.

Jeffries' characteristic form is the construction of strange, little scenes, usually involving at least one human character, out of cut, bent and oil-painted metal. The subject-matter is often left obscure: his grotesque little men, usually naked, seem at odds with themselves and their environment, making love to themselves (perhaps *faute de mieux*) or paying their devotions to all sorts of curious fetishes.

They possibly wonder how they came to mislay vital parts of themselves, but apparently do not let such concerns get them down. It is unmistakably Jeffries' world, and he is perfect master of it.

Cathy de Monchaux also has something definitely but indefinably sexual about a lot of her work. The new pieces on show at Laure Gendilard, London W1

(071-436 2300), until June 9, continue the general thrust of her work, though they are perhaps less redolent of the pleasures of the torture-chamber than before.

There is still a feeling, left over from the slightly earlier sculptures made of red velvet and high-tech metal arranged to suggest teeth and claws, that she is concerned with dangerous cavities to be entered only at one's peril. But this time there is a new cool about her work: it is becoming crisp rather than fierce, and may eventually soften into recognizable humanity. On the other hand, it would be unwise to hold one's breath until it does.

And then, at last, there is a West End show by the great guru of recent British sculpture, Eduardo Paolozzi. The collection of sculptures and prints and collages at the Scottish Gallery, London W1 (071-287 2121), until May 26, is his first such for many years, and is by way of being a mini-retrospective.

The work is fascinating in its variety and its consistency: think of a technique or stylistic approach recently popular with young sculptors, and Paolozzi has already tried it out. He is the great virtuoso of the found object, able to turn displays from museum collections like the Museum of Mankind's "Lost Magic Kingdoms and Six Paper Moons" or the current "Arche Noah", an enchantingly idiomatic re-use of puppets in the Münchner Stadtmuseum, into artworks of his own while fully respecting their original nature.

His sculptures proper are compiled from or inspired by a very diverse assortment of previous artworks or mass-produced objects, and yet they are always instantly recognizable. True, he has not made any stone-carvings recently, but one would put nothing altogether beyond his capabilities.



David Thompson's "The Swimmer", on show at the Morley Gallery, London SE1



Berenice (Lindsay Duncan) and Antiochus (David Haig)

Tigers too tame

THEATRE
Benedict NightingaleBerenice
Cottesloe

IN THE preface to his translation of *Berenice* Neil Barlett quotes the director of this revival, Tim Albery, as saying that the play "reminded him of seeing a tiger in London Zoo". Just so. Desire wars with duty, passion tries to subvert reason, the human animal snarls in frustration at the bars. This is Racine's warning to the sophisticated civilization of 1670, and maybe to our own too.

A pity, then, that some zoo-keeper seems to have shot tranquillizer into the National's tiger population. The cast has its intense moments; it occasionally shakes into life; but often there is something glassy, trancelike about its cage behaviour.

True, Racine is notoriously hard to translate and stage. What is the right style for those princelings, standing in their anonymous anterooms and spouting their love-lorn rhymes? Well, Barlett's text differs from most English versions in recreating the six-foot "alexandrine" metre of the original. He is freer than Racine with off- or near-rhymes, a bit colloquial at times, and annoyingly apt to split infinitives, but the result seems accurate and speakable.

Again, Antony McDonald's anteroom is somewhat surreal as anterooms go. It is a white box with chandeliers at ground level and a blue carpet through which a statue's head sprouts like a grey tulip. It is a place in which a Roman emperor can wear black trousers and a yellow polo-necked

jersey beneath flowing purple velvet. But its oddness hardly explains why we sometimes feel we are watching a neo-classical *Brief Encounter*.

All right, the story does have affinities with Coward's film. Owen Teale's Titus, Vespasian's successor, realizes he cannot marry the barbarian queen, Lindsay Duncan's Berenice. After torment galore he renounces her, she accepts his sacrifice, and David Haig's Antiochus, who also adores her, more silently, joins in the self-denial. Abandoning murder and suicide, Racine finds tragedy in anguished stoicism, a Roman stiff upper lip.

Yet torment, anguish, tragedy are still wanted, and missing here. All three principals opt for what is meant to be quiet intensity, but is generally too quiet and not quite intense enough. True, Duncan reacts to the news of Titus's rejection by running across the stage to grab poor innocent Antiochus, then hobbles off in plausible pain. But the moment passes. Pale-faced disquiet re-establishes itself. Duncan as she is described, practically dying, "screaming and asking for a knife and poison", is just not the Duncan we have seen.

It could be different. There is an antique recording of Bernhard's Phèdre, in which her strange, crooning voice rises to a sepulchral shriek, a spectral wail from another world, as she confronts her doomed love; and Bernhard was considered soft after the feral, ferocious Rachel.

English actors should not be intimidated by Racine's superficial artificialities into being, well, English. A lot of lugubrious whispering is no substitute for what is really needed: a feeling of having been harpooned in the intestines.

Suk to be sought out

CONCERT
David FallowsRLPO/Pesek
Philharmonic Hall,
Liverpool

THE books say that Josef Suk is famous mainly as Dvořák's son-in-law, though many know him first as the grandfather of a wonderful violinist with the same name. That his compositions are so little known in Britain can be explained only as one of those unhappy accidents: if there is a room for only one 20th-century Czech composer in the national cultural consciousness, that composer is rightly Janáček.

But a first reaction to Suk's massive tone-poem *The Ripening*, of 1912-17, is that we are thereby being cheated of something important. It would be quite wrong to hear this as a kind of Strauss-out-of-Mahler, though it is easy to see how that characterization arose. There is an astringent opulence to the writing here that is entirely individual, and he makes astonishingly economical and muscular use of a large orchestra with women's chorus.

The work's layout, in five broad

sections, is wonderfully articulated and there is very little here to suggest Czech nationality. It stands squarely in the main European tradition and plainly deserves a place there.

Yet again, Libor Pesek's advocacy of an undeservedly neglected piece marks the importance of what he is doing as music director at Liverpool. The orchestra played gloriously, as though the piece had been in its repertoire for years and as though intended to stay there — as well it should. And, as an example of inventive programme planning, Pesek preceded it with an earlier choral song by Suk, for women's voices, that contains material later re-worked in *The Ripening*.

The RLPO closed an extremely successful series of Wednesday concerts with a more famous 20th-century Czech piece, Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*. The main soloists, Julie Kennard and John Hutchinson, sang with rich tone and well-flavoured individuality, ably supported by Meriel Dickinson and Michael George; the Liverpool Philharmonic Choir showed an admirably idiomatic forthrightness in what remains difficult music; and the orchestra's energetic playing fully reflected its confidence in Libor Pesek and all that he represents.

A knock-down is nigh

Is the fine art market about to suffer one of its periodic collapses?
Sarah Jane Checkland looks at the evidence that the Japanese and other big-spenders are buying less and choosing more cautiously

NEXT week will see "one of the last chances to buy great Impressionist paintings", according to Sotheby's New York expert, David Nash. Two great Van Gogh portraits are on offer. One, of the artist's homeopathic doctor, Dr Gachet, is estimated at £22 million, while Renoir's ravishing "La Mouline de la Gaiette" has a price tag of £30 million-plus.

However, judging from the cracks lately appearing in this euphoric market, Nash's predictions could founder. If, as some expect, the Impressionist market crashes, there will be much cheaper Renoirs and Van Goghs around. As the auction houses and art investors face the most nerve-racking build-up ever to a series of Impressionist sales, book-makers should start taking bets on the likely prices.

This time last year, prices were leaping upwards. At Sotheby's 12 records were broken, for artists such as Gauguin, Cézanne, Kandinsky, and Magritte. Auctioneers predicted the "£100 million picture". The market was fuelled by Japanese buyers who made world headlines by paying £24 million for Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" in 1986, setting the world record for a work of art. Last December, Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger" was sold to the Japanese for \$51.6 million (around £30 million). Dealers buying on behalf of private Japanese customers conveniently took up the slack, acquiring scores of mediocre works, such as Renoir nudes and School of Paris paintings shunned by sophisticated buyers in the West.

Now, following a scandal over the valuation of the art market's flagship painting, Van Gogh's "Irises", at Sotheby's, there are fears that the market inflated too fast. Taking place straight after the Wall Street crash of 1987, the "Irises" sale, at the new world record price of \$53 million (£30.2 million), caused much relief, and increased confidence in the art market. Then it emerged that the auction house had lent half the money to the buyer, Alan Bond in October 1987.

Two and a half years on, this price has still not been overtaken, which suggests that it was inflated. When Bond sold the painting to the Getty Museum in California this spring, there were further rumours that he was selling it either for the same or even slightly less than he paid for it.

"Nobody knows what the real prices are," said one West End dealer. Another complaint is the practice, initiated by Sotheby's and just taken up by Christie's, of guaranteeing prices to sellers. Scandal has also shaken the credibility of some Japanese buy-



Van Gogh portrait to be sold in New York next week: "Dr Gachet"

ers, and the prices they have paid. Shigeki Kamayama, of the strangely named Mountain Tortoise company, made the headlines in New York last November when he bought a major De Kooning (£13 million) and Picasso (£22 million), only for the news to leak out subsequently that he could not afford to pay.

Nash confirms that he played debt-collector, travelling to Japan to make a selection of works from Kamayama's collection. As many as 18 are understood to be competing against the fresher goods on offer in New York next week. These will be shunned by the trade, whose opinion is that they are "bought".

In another bizarre episode, the director of the Nippon Autopolis Company threw a party to celebrate his acquisition of "Les Femmes d'Alger" by Picasso an hour before the sale took place. This led to speculation that the sale, containing a satellite link-up between Paris and Tokyo, was not a genuine auction, but had been negotiated beforehand. He did acquire the painting, for \$51.6 million (around £30 million).

Last month, two further developments shook the market: the dramatic fall in the Japanese stock market, and very high unsold figures at the Impressionist sales in London. These have been followed through by poor performances for many collecting areas, such as Pop memorabilia and Renaissance bronzes.

The most optimistic prospect for next week is that the quality of the work and an addition to Impressionism will draw big-spending buyers, and that in response to the stock market rollercoaster, the Japanese will move even more of their money into art. The fact that a Japanese buyer paid the world record of £3.6 million for Pop art in New York this week, gives fuel to this theory. Nash says he has the highest number of bookings ever for saleroom seats from potential

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

SOMETHING went horribly wrong with the last in the current *Hypotheticals* series (made by Granada for BBC 2) last night, and it was due to the very confusion and trivialization of television aims and standards which the show was there to examine. Earlier in the week, the programme had stuck to the tried-and-true American format of Harvard law professors targeting a specific ethical problem and following it through a precisely scripted scenario to a logical end. The subjects were, on Sunday, invasion of privacy by the Press and on Tuesday, government secret-leaking.

Last night's debate, however, abandoned those guidelines and brought in an English QC moderator (Geoffrey Robertson) who desperately lacked the unobtrusive ice-cool qualities of his American predecessors. Then it tried to consider a number of different issues involving television's future in the free-market economy after 1992.

Having departed from the tight original format to such an extent that game-show elements were superimposed on its opening and closing moments, the programme never settled on a single central

issue. It became an overcrowded and miscast panel discussion, in which there were self-cancelling answers to a question that nobody could quite remember.

The panelists had to ask Robertson repeatedly what role they were supposed to be playing on behalf of which mythical teleconglomerate. It was only when Tom Mangold was allowed to deal specifically with one issue — how ethically correct it may be to break the law demanding the passing of untransmitted television material to the police — that we began to see how this programme should have been plotted and developed.

It is usually true that television debates are at their worst when debating television, as anybody who has ever been to an Edinburgh TV Festival will testify. *Hypotheticals*, however, deserves better than this. It is to return for another series, then its makers must go back to the original American tapes for clarification.

This Week (ITV) produced a profile of Neil Kinnock which, apart from Woodrow Wyatt's criticism, had the soft-focus look of a Labour Party political broadcast, but seemed to have been conceived either as an introduction or a standby profile for the night after an election victory. It managed in that sense to be simultaneously overdue and premature, a film about a dark horse which has been running in broad daylight for several years.

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ROCK

No Glitter at the ball

'Has-been' rock bands are still the main attraction at summer balls, says John Stock

Buster Bloodvessel has good reason to be cheerful. The 21-stone front-man of Bad Manners, who last had a hit back in 1982, with "My Girl Lollipop", is looking forward to another busy summer playing to packed audiences up and down the country. It is all part of the rock world's private pension scheme. Faced with oblivion after a handful of hits, more and more bands are viewing the university summer ball circuit as a relatively happy form of retirement.

This summer, groups such as Showaddywaddy, Desmond Dekker, Edwin Starr, Suzi Quatro, Sweet, Imagination, The Beatnicks, Ruby Turner, Katrina and The Waves, and of course, Bad Manners, will dominate the line-ups of the big college balls. On the surface, it is nothing short of a musical crisis. After all, Showaddywaddy's 1976 hit, "Under the Moon of Love", is no longer where things are at, musically. Major bands have traditionally

found space in their schedules for a summer ball or two. Even The Rolling Stones played at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1964, just after achieving their first number-one album. So why are today's summer balls attracting groups on the way down?

Mike Malley has been booking bands on the ball circuit for 12 years. "Playing a summer ball is not exactly seen as a career move these days," he says. "Ten years ago, it was no problem booking fashionable groups. Most of today's bands don't like playing at such elitist events; some balls also have a reputation for not looking after bands well."

It is true that someone who has spent three years training to be a dental surgeon might not be the best person to deal with a roadie who's lost his six-way-on-stage-foldback-mix. Keith Naisbitt of Wasted Talent, an agency which represents bands such as U2, the Eurythmics and Simple Minds, explains: "People forget that the music industry is just that, an industry. Putting on a major act these days is a complicated job."

"I could never see U2 playing a summer ball. Besides, to play at a one-off event, they would have to believe in the cause."

In the radical-chic stakes, Nelson Mandela clearly has the edge on most summer balls.

One man who will be sorely missed this summer is Gary Glitter. He may not command the

same fee as The Eurythmics, but the news is that he is having a go. Boosted in part, perhaps, by the fame that follows appearances on the British Rail posters, the doyen of the student circuit has managed to outpace himself.

The fees which the top end of the has-been market command for one appearance vary between £1,000 and £4,000. Desmond Dekker costs £1,250, Bootleg Beatles £1,500, Bad Manners up to £2,000, Showaddywaddy and Edwin Starr around £2,500, and Suzi Quatro £4,000. Two years ago, Gary Glitter was nudging £3,000. This year he has topped his fee to £10,000. As yet, no one has booked him for a ball.

The growing popularity of "has-been" bands reflects a fundamental change in the musical requirements of summer balls. Anna Baldwin is social secretary of the Students Union at Nottingham University, where there are a number of halls-of-residence parties this summer. "We do try to mix in some new bands - last year we hired Del Amitri, who were great - but you have to remember that most people are going to be drunk; they're not interested in listening to 'good' music. This year the halls have gone for older bands, who are better at creating a party atmosphere. We've got Showaddywaddy playing."

The old trouper knows what is required - a lesson which some

Oxbridge committees have been slow to learn. In the early Eighties, fashionable acts such as The Damned, Elvis Costello, and later, The Housemartins and The Pogues were hired, often with disastrous results. If the music was not laden with politics, it was slow and "important"; either way, it was difficult to dance to.

The Damned, who felt particularly uncomfortable playing to bow-ties and taffeta, spent the entire time trading insults with the audience. (The Rolling Stones had done the same 20 years earlier. Ten minutes of abusing the "privileged" Magdalen audience was followed by 50 minutes of playing, before they stopped abruptly.)

Gary Glitter's credentials, then, make him perfect summer ball material. He is friendly; he has not had a Top 40 hit since 1975 ("Doing Alright with the Boys" reached number six); and most people can chant and dance along to at least three of his songs: "Rock 'n' Roll Part II", "I'm the Leader of the Gang (I Am)" and "I Love You Love Me Love".

As, however, he is (perhaps temporarily) out of the reach of most entertainment budgets, the final word goes to Buster. So far, he has been booked for three Oxbridge balls this summer, and for one of London's many hospital balls. "People have their gripes about summer balls, but I love 'em. Everyone forgets about class and just has a good time."



Gary Glitter: Expensive, but perfect summer ball material

Bittersweet romanticism and a City built on hardcore

ROCK ALBUMS

David Toop

John Zorn: *Naked City* (Elektra/Nonesuch 7559-79238-2)

NAKED City, the quintet led by New York saxophonist John Zorn, is an enthralling live experience. Rarely does a group of musicians approach such bizarre and extreme contrasts of repertoire with their virtuosity, aggressive enthusiasm and attention to detail.

On this, the first album by the group, a brooding version of Johnny Mandel's theme for the 1958 Robert Wise film, *I Want To Live*, is followed by a straightforward R'n'B-flavoured treatment of Ornette Coleman's "Lonely Woman". Eight tracks then flash by in rapid succession, none lasting more than 38 seconds. Sporting titles like "Demon Sano-

tuary", "Obeah Man", and "Blood Duster", they are ultra-compact homages to that equally eruptively ultra-compact form of heavy metal known as thrash or hardcore. Then comes an eerie, metallic introduction, leading into the theme from *Chinatown*. Like Gerry Goldsmith's music to the film, the Naked City version conveys a mood of perverted, bittersweet romanticism.

With each individual composition, commitment is total. No attempt is made to ease the disparity of emotions and clash of musical styles. Zorn's music has been praised and damned with a fair range of descriptions, including post-modernist, intellectual posing and muzak for yuppies. Such a wealth of critical invective says very little about the overall effect of the group, which, as their name suggests, could be compared to the nature of cities. Old, new, ugly and beautiful all co-exist in a dynamic, barely contained whole.

Amine: *Yallah* (Philips 838808-1)

Being a Sengali of hi-tech World Music experiments is not without its pitfalls. French producer Martin Meissonnier has already managed to alienate King Sunny Ade from his Nigerian fans, and his contributions to an album by Algerian rai star Cheb Khaled caused outrage in Oran.

Now he has found a less-established artist to work with, in the shape of Tunisian-born Amine. Known to her friends as the "disorientated Oriental", Amine sings the way she is photographed, inviting suspect clichés about dusky Arabic beauties, but holds her own against Meissonnier's seductive global patchwork.

Suspicion lingers, however. For some years, the French music industry has been in search of a female singer from the Arab world. Is this a genuine desire to infiltrate the pop world with faces

that do not fit the accepted requirements, or are there murkier desires and fantasies afoot?

Despite a wealth of engaging ornamentation, this is music that slips easily from the memory.

Davy Spillane: *Shadow Hunter* (Cooking Vinyl COOK030)

Celtic ambient music, for want of a better descriptive phrase, has been exerting a powerful influence during the last few years, airily wafting through television commercials and pop records.

Davy Spillane is a highly expressive performer on the Irish Uilleann pipes and low whistle, and has added coloration to the work of Kate Bush, Enya and Chris Rea, among others. "Carron Streams" (originally recorded for a Val Doonican series, which proves that the roots music scene does not lack the common touch), "Walker of the Snow" and "Journies of a Dreamer" all have the atmosphere of misty mornings.

There are more robust songs on the album which gentle souls may find abrasive, but the converse may apply, and others could find the Val Doonican association too much to bear.

The Pretenders: *Packed* (WEA 9031-71403-2)

It was all over for guitars in the last decade, as musical messages travelled across electronic interfaces without human interference. Currently, however, guitars are humming and screaming louder than ever, and nowhere more so than on *Packed*, the fifth Pretenders album in an illustrious 10-year career. Whatever has happened in the four-year period since *Get Close*, it does not seem to have affected Chrissie Hynde sufficiently for her to revise her ideas about song writing.

Pretenders' fans will not feel short-changed, though, since her singing still carries its familiar feeling and conviction.

Muzic: *Blues for Transylvania* (Hannibal HNCD 1350)

The effort this five-piece group from Budapest has expended in keeping alive the music of Transylvania has acquired a new resonance with the Reverend Laszlo Kovacs' recent warning against the spread of nationalism in Romania and its threat to the Hungarian minority. This is folklore with a purpose, and the involvement of Muzicists in the Romanian revolution should give their forthcoming British tour a greater relevance than the usual acts on the World Music circuit.

Luckily, since political topicality is not an accurate gauge of artistic worth, their music is very appealing. The opening track, in particular, the haunting piece called "Old Song from Somogy", will have a familiar ring to lovers of Indian music, medieval music and, indeed, Celtic ambient music.

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Toop and Rose Rouse

- TOUMANI DIABATE:** This young kora player from Mali has a sparkling, individual style which is accessible and pleasurable. West Indian Centre Laycock Place, Leeds (0532 629496) tomorrow, 8.30pm, 24.
- The Green Buffs:** Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061 236 1677) Sun, 8pm, £4.30.
- LAS CHICAS DEL CAN:** Fourteen-piece all-woman band from the Dominican Republic who play fast and furious Merengue and tropical dance music. Expect dance routines and kitsch outfits. Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square, London W1 (071 437 4446) Sun, 7.30pm, £7.50.
- ALBERT KING:** A doleful Mississippi-born singer, with a stringing guitar style, who pointed urban blues in a scintillating direction with his 1960s songs such as "Laudromat Blues" and "Crescent Saw". Town & Country Club Highgate Road, London NWS (071 284 0303) Sun, 7.30pm, £9.
- UNDERWEATH WHAT:** Powerful rock trio with a strong sense of drama and an aggressive line in social conscience. Astoria Theatre Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (071 434 9582) tonight, 7.30pm, £9.
- KODO:** The athletic Japanese troupe from Sado Island continues to bang the drum for communal green living. Sedler's Walls Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071 278 8515) tonight until May 19, 7.30pm, £4-£16. Matinee tomorrow at 2.30pm.
- BILLY BRAGG:** Plugging his new album, with its earnest versions of "The Internationale", "The Red Flag" and "Jerusalem". Cardiff University Park Place, (0222 396421) tonight, 8pm, £5.
- Town & Country Club Highgate Road, London NWS (071 284 0303) Monday, 7.30pm, £6.**
- RHYTHM SISTERS:** Female duo from Leeds whose clever songs prompted critical acclaim a couple of years ago. Wilkeson Library Wilkeson Green, London NW10 (081 451 0294) today, 8.30pm, £5.50.
- WORLD PARTY:** Four years ago, this motley crew released a brilliant album, "Private Revolution", which mysteriously disappeared from the charts. Led by ex-Waterboy Karl Wallinger, they're obsessed with the well-being of the environment and write intelligent party songs. Hackney Empire 261 Mare Street, London E9 (081 985 4684) Sunday, 7.30pm, £5.50.
- THE HAPPY END:** Exuberant, political big band containing a loose assortment of the capital's jazz musicians. Featuring a mighty brass section, they pump out an eclectic selection of tunes. Old White Horse 261 Brixton Road, London SW9 (071 274 5537) Sunday, 7.45pm, £5.50.

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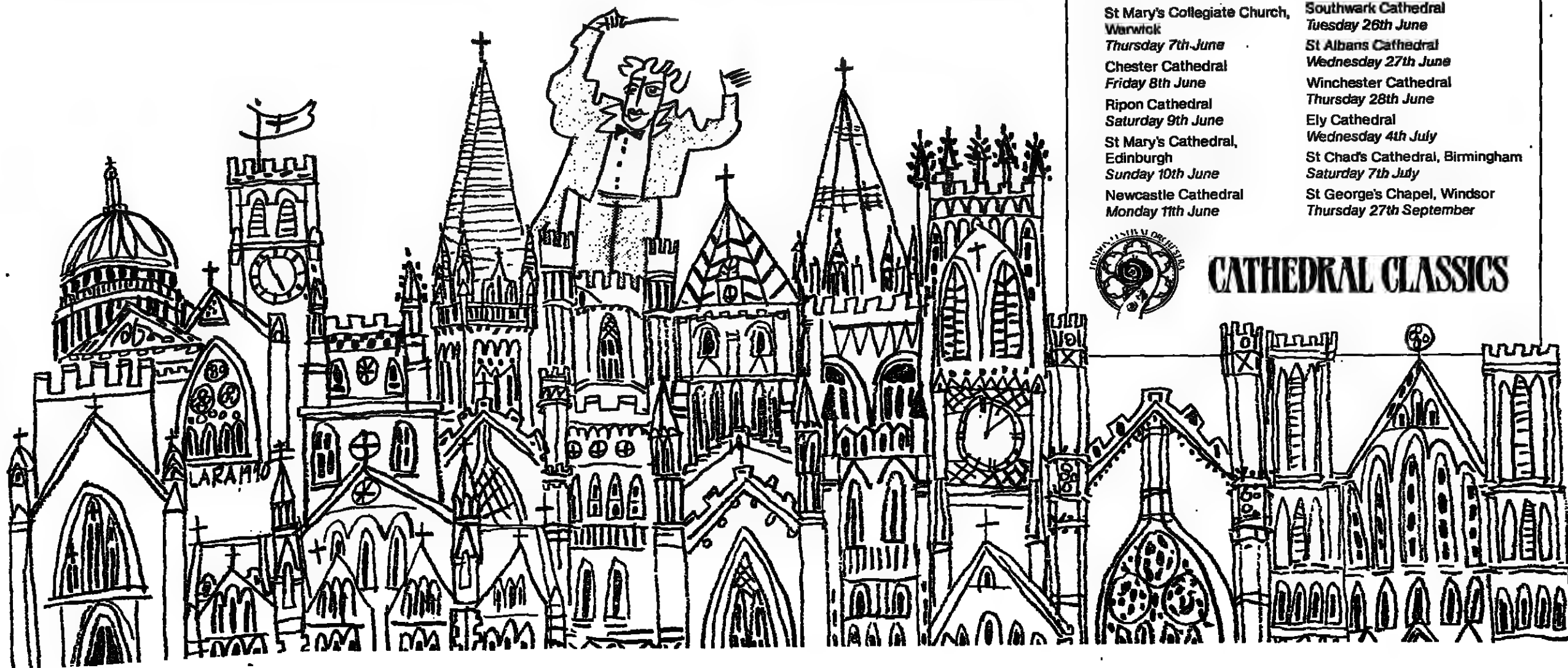
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CATHEDRAL CLASSICS



The people who bear the cross

When disaster strikes, the Red Cross comes into its own, giving physical and mental aid to the victims and bereaved. Alan Franks reports

The British Red Cross did not want it to happen this way, but the terrible chronicle of crashes and catastrophes in the past three years has given the emergency relief organization its highest public profile in a history of 120 years. Now it is one of the most sought-after sources of practical guidance in both the immediate and longer-term aftermath of sudden tragedy and bereavement. After the Shackleton air crash last week, the commander of RAF Lossiemouth requested stocks of *Coping With Crisis*, the agency's leaflet, which has filled a yawning gap in the literature of mental and physical survival. Publication of the leaflet had itself been rushed forward last year in the wake of the terrorist bombing at Deal barracks on September 22.

"We are getting countless inquiries from bereaved people," the agency says, "and not only from those who are affected by disasters. There has been an alarming shortage of practical advice in the past. It is ironic that it should take all these disasters to set that right."

Because of the nature of its work, the organization's prominence has risen and fallen with the random cycle of disaster. Once the immediate relief and welfare operation is completed, it recedes into the backwater of the English voluntary sector. Yet the fact is that for months, and even years, after the event its work remains of vital need to the afflicted community.

Nowhere is this truer than in the Scottish town of Lockerbie, where 11 residents were among the 270 who died as a result of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988. Next month, 200 relatives of the passengers are expected in the town for the unveiling of a memorial, and the Red Cross is bearing some of the burden of co-ordinating the visit with the local hoteliers.

No one in Lockerbie begrudges the Americans their right to come. It is just that the town has had to live with the disaster more or less permanently in the intervening 17 months. And some of the Americans keep coming back. A year after the tragedy, a few of them wanted to stand at the precise spot in the town or the surrounding fields where their relative had fallen, at the precise time of day, 7.03pm, that the explosion had occurred.

"I can see that they need to do all that," says one resident with a house not far from Sherwood Crescent, where three houses were obliterated by the falling debris. "I can understand that they need to have a clear picture of where the deaths happened. But it is different for us. We live here all the time; we know only too well what took place that night, with everything on fire in these streets, and we often feel we have had enough reminding."

The Red Cross is also planning to attend each session of the Fatal Accident Inquiry Board, which will examine individual cases and assess levels of compensation. The board's work is expected to last for several months, and involve about 200 lawyers.

"The work goes on," says Dr Alistair Cameron, director of the Dumfries branch of the Red Cross. "But we do not hold sessions as such. It is a matter of allowing people to talk about what has happened, and that includes people who would not like to admit that they need to talk, let alone counselling."

There is a long pause before that dread word, as though he is familiar with its capacity to enrage. Like his namesake from *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, he has spent a working lifetime in general practice, retiring just five months before the disaster but still retaining an active role in the Red Cross. His wife is also a veteran of the movement. Her first involvement came during the Second World War, when she helped to treat casualties of the Blitz at Clydebank.

"The people whom we have helped in the course of the year since the tragedy are the ones who have come to talk," Dr Cameron says. "They don't say, 'I really need help', or anything like that, because they may not see it in that way. Once they have started to talk, it all comes out. That's when you really hear what the problems are. And my goodness, you do hear it all. That is often the greatest contribution we can make."

As a result of growing awareness of the work of the Red Cross, the voluntary donations, on which it is entirely dependent, are increasing by about 8 per cent a year. This week, its 96 branches in England, Scotland and Wales, with a total of



Lockerbie remembers: next month, the Red Cross will help to guide the American relatives of the dead

100,000 volunteers, will have raised nearly a third of its annual income. In the course of a year it issues some 50,000 first-aid certificates to exam candidates, 35,000 of which are in companies subject to the 1981 First Aid at Work Regulations, and trains a further 26,000 in non-certificated basic first aid.

Despite its present civil applications, the agency started life as the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, the initiative of a 31-year-old businessman,

Henry Dunant, who in 1862 had expressed his alarm at the lack of medical attention given to soldiers wounded in the battle of Solferino, between the Austrians and the French and Italians.

The present profile of the branch volunteer remains as diverse as ever, and Dr Cameron counts millionaires as well as recipients of income support among his members.

"The time which they spend on the work varies enormously," he

says. "Some will put in about two or three hours a week, while others never seem to stop, nor indeed to want to stop — so much so that you have to be on your guard all the time against the dangers of burn-out."

"The training has become infinitely more sophisticated. Not so long ago, if we needed to make up a splint we would have to use a copy of *The Scotsman*, whereas now we are able to use the proper foam material. But in the end, a large part of it is about improvisation."

The wit behind the name game

Nicknames can be a delight or hurtful, but, as a new book declares, everyone who is anyone should have one

What do the following have in common? Atilla the Hen, Ayesha (she who must be obeyed), the Blessed Margaret, the Iron Lady, the Plutonium Blonde, Rhoda the Rhino, Snobby Roberts, the Westminster Ripper. They are, of course, some of the nicknames accorded to the Prime Minister, and cited by Basil Freestone, compiler of the newly published *Harrap Book of Nicknames*.

Indeed, Margaret ("milk-smatcher") Thatcher has more entries than anyone else. The book runs to 5,000 entries and proves that nicknames are as alluring as ever.

"Of all eloquence a nickname is the most concise, of all arguments the most unanswerable," the essayist William Hazlitt remarked. And the best nicknames do reveal a certain pertinence that consistently pleases.

Etymologically, the nickname comes from the old English *ekename*, an additional name. Originally that meant a descriptive name, as in "Long Shanks", "The Bastard", or even (sycophantically) "Coeur de Lion". It is arguable that surnames (the first list appeared in 1559) are a form of nickname — Black meaning black-haired, White pale-complexioned.

Nicknames fall into predictable categories. There are the affectionate — "Monty", "Dicky", and "Maggie". There is the adulatory — "The Boss" (Bruce Springsteen) or "Big Brain" (Brendan Foster). But much more likely is the disrespectful or mocking — "Tarzan" (Michael Heseltine), "Guy the Gorilla" (Ian Botham) and the "Iron Lady", a term that may be seen as complimentary but whose coinage, a Russian journalist, was hardly a Thatcherite.

There are even inevitable nicknames, automatic companions to a surname: "Dusty" Miller, "Chalky" White, and "Agony" Payne.

Nicknames flourish best in a closed, or at least definable world. Schools, sports teams, the services and clubs of all sorts all represent the slightly claustrophobic world that creates the kind of intimacy in which nicknames flourish.

The best home of nicknames, albeit fictional, is P. G. Wodehouse's *Drones Club*. Here one sees the nickname in all its glory. "Bertie" Wooster himself is a mere diminutive, as is "Gussy" Fink-Nottle, but we can find

the affectionate ("Bingo" Little), the descriptive ("Barmy" Fotheringay-Phipps), and the punning ("Kipper" Herring).

The real-life models for the *Drones* — the determinedly self-indulgent members of the 19th century Pelican Club — were similarly productive of nicknaming. "Catsmeat" Potter-Pirbright may have been a figment of Wodehouse's imagination, but "Master Pitcher", "Shifter" and the "Dwarf of Blood" were all flesh and blood adornments of 1890s London.

It is a mistake to confuse a nickname with an honorific. But Mr Freestone thinks otherwise, and his pages are filled with such individuals as "the Father of Management Education" (Joseph Wharton), "the Napoleon of the Trotting Turf" (Hiram Woodruff), and "the British Pussyfoot" (Sir Wilfred Lawson) — individuals who, in fairness, are hardly known by their real names, let alone the sobriquet.

Indeed, the one occasion on which "father" really is a nickname is "Farve", which is what the Mitford girls called Lord Redesdale.

Nicknames have to come from somewhere, even if the process is artificial. It may well be that plenty of people around Chicago knew Al Capone as "Scarface" (behind his back), and New York's Benjamin Siegel as "Bugsie", but what of Paul "The Walrus" Ricca, Roger "The Terrible" Tuohy, and Murray "the Camel" Humphreys? This is Damon Runyon territory, and maybe it is not coincidental that journalist Jake Lingle, who revelled in creating such names in the *Chicago Tribune*, was finally himself gunned down.

The Press is a prime coiner of nicknames; none more so than *Private Eye*. Its pages can be an obstacle course to the uninformed as the "Getts-machworse" (the *Daily Express*) and the "Indescribably boring" (*The Independent*) mingle with "Magdon Man" (Sir Geoffrey Howe), "Smoothiechops" (Cecil Parkinson) and "Cap'n Bob" (Robert Maxwell).

Nicknames can delight, and nicknames can hurt. But apparently it is better to have one than not. As the Chinese proverb has it: "If a man has no nickname, he never grows rich."

Jonathan Green

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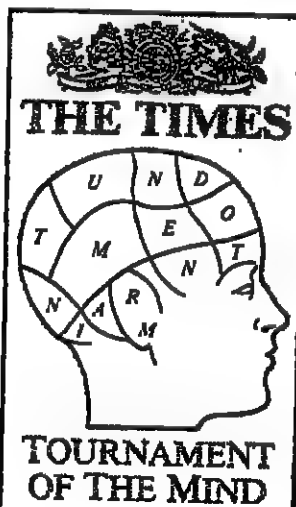
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Rising to a final challenge

Puzzle aficionados and raw beginners alike have crossed intellectual swords and now this year's battle nears its end



Persevering: Asoka Chakrabarti and Gareth Bushill, aged 16, two of the final 13

Thousands started out along the road in March: 13 will reach the end of it on Monday, in a closed room in London. Just one of those 13 will come out as winner of this year's Tournament of the Mind, which has teased contestants' intellects and tested the patience of their families for the last 10 weeks.

The annual contest in ingenuity and deviousness has attracted more entries this year than last. About 8,500 competitors entered, from Britain and from every part of the globe within reach of copies of *The Times*, the *Collins English Dictionary* and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* — which between them contained all the questions and all the answers (set by Mensa, the society for people with high IQs). School teams from Cyprus and Kuwait were among those in the final rounds.

The school section has been won by a team with an average age of not quite 12, from Cheddle Hulme School, Cheshire. The team has won for its school a Hewlett Packard computer and a commemorative plaque. Cheddle Hulme is still on course to pull off a double victory: one of the five members of its team entry has also won his way separately to that closed room where the individual finals will be fought out on Monday. He is Gareth Bushill, aged 16, working for his A levels in Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths. He is not the first teenager nor the youngest to

reach the individual finals — in 1989 a 14-year-old managed to do so.

"It has not been as serious a diversion from A levels as you might think," Gareth says. "I do not sit the exams until next year. I enjoyed the tournament, but I took it as all part of the day's work, and it has not been a major distraction — at least, I hope not."

Gareth was the only sixth-former in a team of fourth-year pupils aged 10 and 11, and was roped in because he was working as a helper in one of the junior classes of mathematics teacher Mrs Rani Jackson, who encouraged a team from the school to enter.

"I used the questions as part of the classroom work in two maths classes," Mrs Jackson says. "I invited four children who were good at maths to form a team — three girls and a boy. Gareth helped them, but they were all working the problems out for themselves. In one question, Gareth got the wrong answer at first and all the others got it right."

Mrs Jackson chose the team's youngest member, Nicola Watt, aged 10, to be its captain. "It was good fun," Nicola says. "I liked the maths and logic questions best. Gareth helped us when we didn't understand the questions. We all had a go at everything — we'd do it for homework and then compare our answers."

The Cheddle Hulme team seems to have made less heavy weather of the tournament than some of the 13 adults who achieved the best scores

in the final rounds and won through to Monday's timed individual final. The winner will receive £5,000, a trophy based on Rodin's *The Thinker* and a special certificate — the other finalists will receive £250 and a certificate. Some of them are unsure whether they share Gareth's view that the tournament has involved more pleasure than pain. For some, the time-consuming effort to track down obscure facts and even more obscure processes of ratiocination has almost taken over their lives.

"Originally it was pleasure, but then it got to the point where I said to myself: 'Now I've got so far, I've got to continue,'" says Asoka Chakrabarti, who works as a commodities trader in London, and who was trying his hand at the tournament for the first time.

"The last fortnight has been extraordinarily tense — so much so that my family were thinking of writing to *The Times* to complain of extreme mental cruelty," Peter Fowler, of Reading, Berkshire, says. "But at least they'll be pleased to know it was all worth while."

Several finalists are apprehensive about the one aspect of the final where Gareth may find himself more experienced than his seniors. "It is many years since I sat an exam. I am not expecting to do well under exam conditions," Andrew Johnson of Congleton, Cheshire, says. Mr Johnson was the individual winner of last year's Tournament of the Mind. "We did not have a 'super-final'

played against the clock. I am a self-confessed plodder. But I intend to come down to London and have a go."

People do find it hard to let go, once they have been hooked on teasing out the mysteries of grids, letter-squares and anagrams, and grappling with such challenges as the 1,000 stacks of dubsiously genuine 10p pieces, the two men with wooden clubs running towards each other, and the drawers filled with odd socks.

The finalists competing in the timed play-off are:

Peter Fowler, Tipping's Lane, Woodley, Cheshire; James Steele, Chantry Avenue, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire; Brian Jones, Spedding Way, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire; Andrew Johnson, Holmesville Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire; Gareth Bushill, Manchester Road, Lostock, Northwich, Cheshire; John Winter, Walcott House, Blennerhasset, Carlisle; Michael Jones, Cock-crow Wood, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex; Rik Wickson, Bowfield Drive, High Lane, Stockport, Cheshire; Stephen Jones, 3 Reigate Road, New Basford, Nottingham; Les Trea, Fairbourne Avenue, Alderley Edge, Cheshire; Alan Garratt, Maple Cottage, Dark Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire; Blake Rogers, Humphrey Lane, Urnston, Manchester; Asoka Chakrabarti, Osbourne Road, Hornchurch, Essex.

George Hill

Not into temptation

What is it the
about clerics
that makes some
women fall in
love with them
— and how do
they resist?
Liz Gill reports

One of the most successful creations in recent romantic fiction was Ralph de Brissart in *The Thorn Birds*. He was clever, handsome and charming — and a Catholic priest. By making her hero tantalizingly unobtainable, Colleen McCullough tapped a powerful female fantasy, and the book was a runaway best-seller.

A few days ago a beleaguered Midlands vicar had to seek legal help to escape the unwanted attentions of a female parishioner.

The rather pathetic real life episode is a far cry from the fictional, but both reveal aspects of a phenomenon regularly encountered by clergy of all denominations, and which can range from the tiresome to the disastrous. As Father Louis Marteau says: "It goes with the territory. I think it happens to everyone. We are dealing here with some very powerful psychological areas — the idea of the god/man, perhaps the need for a father figure for those who are bereft, or the need for a non-sexual, non-threatening male, or the need for a gentle authority figure to replace the experience of a bad one. All these are likely to evoke peculiar reactions."

Father Marteau, director of the Dympea Centre, a counselling organization for ministers of all denominations, says that infatuations rarely take the form of open declarations of love or physical approaches: "You don't make a pass if you don't think you will get a positive reaction. But there's a lot of non-verbal language that goes on. And they always seem to be there when you need them, sitting under the pulpit, asking your advice, making you feel important and helpful."

"Most of the time it's not a problem. As long as you remain balanced and objective about it you can handle it. You can talk about it with your supervisor or fellow clergy, and even laugh about it. It's when you begin to get caught up in it that it's dangerous, or if you start colluding. It's all right if others think you're God; when you start believing it yourself you're in trouble."

The subject is raised in training but, says Reverend Gordon Murrell, chaplain and lecturer at Salisbury and Wells Theological College, there's a limit to theoretical preparation. "It tends to be easier if you have colleagues around, rather than if you're all alone in some village."

"The important thing is to recognize what's going on, and that it is more to do with that person's needs than because you're a brilliant vicar."

Most clergy are quick to point out that unwanted affections are not the sole prerogative of priests: they affect



Priestly passion: Richard Chamberlain and Rachel Ward in a scene from *The Thorn Birds*

other members of the caring professions such as doctors, teachers and social workers. But the priest is in a particularly difficult position, as his territory and working hours are far less clearly delineated.

Most of the women who develop these feelings are not, Father Marteau believes, overtly neurotic, but they do tend to be unfulfilled in some emotional area of their lives.

Sometimes the passion fades of its own accord. But Father Marteau tells of a priest who finally, in desperation, threw a bucket of cold water over his pursuer. Usually, he says, the woman's attentions can be redirected. "You can discourage it. You have to set your own boundaries, and the red warning light has always to be on."

Symptoms, Revd Murrell says, include "inappropriate religiosity, such as turning up at an unspeakable number of services. You've also got to be aware when the questions you are being asked are masking something else. You're all made mistakes. You are encouraging someone and then you realize what it's really all about. You feel a fool."

Although churches inevitably attract lonely people, Revd Murrell agrees with Father Marteau that the majority of women who develop these fantasies are otherwise "normal, intelligent and balanced."

He's not surprised that the syndrome exists. The priest

can be a powerful figure, a leader with a religious dimension who wears special clothes and is supposed to keep his own emotions out of reach. "Then there's the whole business of the taboo. It's the attraction of forbidden fruit."

Revd Murrell is married, but he doesn't believe having a wife makes a clergyman safe. Nevertheless, a canny wife can

'You have to set your own boundaries, and the red warning light has always to be on'

do a great deal to deflect attention from her husband.

According to Reverend Tom Leary, a south London vicar, this is a vital talent at a time when clergymen seem increasingly afraid of giving offence.

"There are all kinds of pressures on the modern clergyman to be popular — the whole business of numbers in church, and so on. These performance criteria can make his job as a priest more difficult. He doesn't want to upset people in case they go away or spread rumours."

"So, in a lot of cases the confronting is done by the

wife. It will be she who maintains the boundaries. She'll answer the phone, deal with callers at the door, say he's not available on his day off, go with him on tricky pastoral occasions to make sure things don't go wrong."

Revd Leary, who is also married, trained as a marital psychotherapist, and is the organizer of the Clergy Marriage Consultation Service, which offers help to clergy couples. He believes there's a need for more training and support services to help priests deal with obsessives. "One of the things that happens is that they turn up to mid-week services where there are few worshippers, and so there is no way the priest can avoid them. They learn his habits and where he will be."

"This can happen with men as well. It happened to me. It got to the point where I could neither go into church nor play a game of cricket without him being there. Because I'm a professional therapist I knew how to deal with it. I confronted him and it stopped."

"But these are all God's children and you are responsible for them. The skill lies in dealing with the situations without detriment to them or to you and your family."

This would seem the heart of the matter. As one female counsellor working with priests explained: "As a person trying to spread the love of God you can hardly just reject someone."

IN THE fetid climate of a New Jersey summer, an attractive young woman was tried on 130 charges of sexual abuse against 20 children ranging in age from three to five. The case marked a high point, for those who are moved to measure such things, in the child abuse hysteria that seems to have gripped our transatlantic cultures.

The defendant, 26-year-old Margaret Kelly Michaels, was said to have defiled every single child in the Wee Care Day Nursery where she worked as a teacher for seven months. During her trial in 1988, the court heard a grotesque catalogue of horrors including Miss Michaels' nude on the piano.

No adult was witness to any of the crimes. During the seven months the accused teacher worked at the school, not a single child complained of such behaviour. No teacher every stumbled into this nightmare. All the same, the young teacher was convicted and sentenced to 47 years in prison.

But this month, in a remarkable piece of work in *Harper's*, the American magazine, Dorothy Rabinowitz, a journalist who was covering the case for a New Jersey television station, writes that "a substantial body of evidence suggests that Margaret Kelly Michaels was convicted of crimes she did not commit". In essence, according to Ms Rabinowitz, what happened in this case was that Michaels had left Wee Care for a better-paying job, a small child from the nursery was taken for a routine medical check-up. A nurse took his temperature rectally. After a few quiet seconds, the child said: "That's what my teacher does to me at nap time at school." Asked what he meant, the boy replied: "Her takes my temperature." This was a perfectly normal exchange, as the teachers at the nursery were required to take temperatures, albeit not rectally.

But this perfectly normal exchange did not take place in normal times: the event was reported to the local authorities and hence to special police investigators, social workers and child abuse experts and, when it was all over, after 18 months of interviewing parents and children, the charges were laid. Ironically, the little boy who had started it all with his remark was judged not to have been sexually abused.

Only now, 50 years after the evacuation of Dunkirk, can some of the stories be told. The accepted image of the Dunkirk miracle is clear: young men stood for hours in disciplined ranks, ignoring the shelling and strafing, showing neither fear nor impatience, until their deliverance, when they climbed aboard the rescue ships pleading for a chance to "have another go". And

indeed that was how the evacuation was — for much of the time, in some of the places and for many of the men. But not all. Tomorrow, in *The Times* Saturday Review, Brian James talks to some of the men who were on the Dunkirk beaches. He hears

Protect us from the protectors



BARBARA AMBER

Whether or not the children were ever abused by Michaels, Ms Rabinowitz writes, their trauma today is evident. They believe they were victims of shocking abuse. For almost two years they had been examined and interviewed with the aid of anatomically correct dolls, those sad little rag dolls complete with genitalia. This technique has been highly criticized although it is still very much in use in both America and Britain. An example from the Michaels trial illustrates the problem:

Interrogator: What colour did Kelly have down there (pointing to the doll)? Brown like her head? Did she have hair under her arm?

Luke (aged four): My daddy do.

Interrogator (taking a new tack): Did Kelly play "Jingle Bells" with clothes on?

Luke (screaming now): No, I saw her penis! I peed on her! Interrogator: You peed on her?

Luke: No, she peed on me. On the basis of such "evidence", Ms Rabinowitz says, Michaels was convicted. There was no physical evidence of injury to the children. No adult could confirm the children's stories. When a judge granted Michaels bail, pending appeal of her conviction, the outcry was so enormous the State governor overturned the bail. Today, Michaels sits in prison.

Perhaps she will receive a new trial, but the problem is far greater than her case alone. Social hysterias have a strong half-life, as our own Cleveland case illustrates. The problem, of course, is that child abuse

exists but some people may not be able to confront social evil without adopting and accepting measures out of all proportion to the problem. In my view, this explains the tragic zeal of Dr Marietta Higgs, the paediatrician whose diagnosis was substantially responsible for the removal of 121 children from their families in Cleveland. She seems to me rather like a person who is suddenly brought face to face with a frightful car accident and in their shock adopts measures that would bring the entire automobile industry to a halt.

Last month, Dr Higgs dropped her appeal against proposed disciplinary action by the Northern Regional Health Authority and accepted a paediatric job at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. This compromise delighted the three judges of the Court of Appeal who termed it a very sensible solution. I blinked several times on reading this. Under Dr Higgs' procedures, the most awful abuse of human rights we have seen in this country for many years took place. Nearly 100 children were taken from their families, for what turned out to be no reason at all. Today, there are 20 writs for damages from parents pending against Dr Higgs.

All the same, I thought, perhaps I am being unfair and this is a new Dr Higgs. Perhaps she recognizes that the means do not justify the end. That question must also have occurred to the interviewer in *The Observer* who spoke to her last month. "If one of those 121 diagnoses [of child abuse] was wrong," the

interviewer wrote, "does Dr Higgs accept that it would represent not just a medical mistake, but a complete catastrophe for the family involved?"

Whatever the answer, it was not a simple "no". According to the article, all Dr Higgs said in response was: "I am a children's doctor. From an abused child's point of view, if a mistake is made, and a diagnosis is not made, what about the consequences of that and the damage to that child for the rest of its life?" It would not be unfair, I think, to suggest that for Dr Higgs it is better to traumatize 100 innocent people than let one child abuser go free.

Dr Higgs' new job comes with the condition that she not be involved in child abuse cases for three years, at which time matters will be reviewed. One hopes this is a first step. In my own view, she should first be kept away from child abuse cases and then kept away from children. Indeed, if her response to *The Observer* interviewer is accurate, she strikes me as the sort of person whose real field might be rabbits or gerbils.

Indeed the doctors who figured in the Cleveland hysteria have all shown what is to me a curious lack of shame. But the consequences of their actions linger. One read this week of a Cumbrian man with lung cancer trying to see his estranged children before his death. Apparently, the children were removed from him after allegations of sexual abuse. One simply cannot assess the merits of the case from a tabloid story. But one factor seems indisputable. The father claims he is innocent and any charges that have been made against him by social workers have never been tested in court. All the same, he has been convicted and punished.

The Butler-Sloss report called for the various disciplines such as doctors, social workers and police to all work together in order to solve the problem of child abuse. What is needed, I should think, is precisely the opposite. We need independent and strong authorities such as the police and the courts to see that a coven of social workers and doctors do not trample on the civil and legal rights of families. Having our courts applaud the return of Marietta Higgs to the field of child medicine is cold comfort indeed.

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

about looting and survival, about chance and chaos, as thousands of troops took part in the most abhorrently heinous reversal of all the battles of Britain.

Also in the Review, Ray Connolly talks to Pamela, Lady Harlech, chairman of the

boards of the English National Ballet and the Women's Playhouse Trust, as well as being on the board of the South Bank Centre and a trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum. "When it comes to the arts, she is a fixer," he writes. A friend recently dubbed her the Red Adair of the artistic world and she has also been described as a "bully" and "Wham bam thank you Pam".

A living off the fat of the land

One advertisement likely to attract interest among investors reading today's *Financial Times* is the call for offers on Ragdale Hall in Leicestershire. With a turnover of £3 million a year, the handsome mansion, complete with planning permission for an ambitious extension, will look — to the uninitiated — like a snip at a probable selling price of just twice that amount. The collapse last week of the parent company, Leisure Investments, has forced the sale.

But those who think that running a business like Ragdale is akin to taking high-calorie candy from a very bouncing baby should consider the role of the health farm in the Nineties: the days when you could house guests in chalets and feed them on carrot juice are over. Today's visitors expect warm, luxurious surroundings, state-of-the-art facilities, high staffing ratios and a great deal of high-quality, wholesome food.

"The business is notorious for attracting people who think that because they can play a game of tennis they could run a fitness operation," says Lesley White, the managing director of Ragdale, who hopes the receivers will settle for a fast sale to the management team already in place.

Still, the health farm business in Britain is thriving, following on the heels of Europe, where spas are experiencing 30 per cent annual growth. Ragdale owes the health of its own balance sheet to a female ambience



In hot pursuit: the Wheways are among the contenders
Will the health farm boom continue?
Rival investors are still hoping for rich pickings from a leaner, fitter industry

that distinguishes it in an industry where most of the growth is expected to come from men and companies.

More dreaded by the incumbents are outside investors, who would almost certainly want to bring sexual equality to Ragdale, where 85 per cent of the guests are women and a higher ratio of men is deliberately discouraged.

"We feel our women guests would be intimidated by seeing a higher proportion of men during the week," says Jean Oliver, Ragdale's manager.

The pursuit of health and beauty appears to defeat recession; as well as

Ragdale Hall and its sister health club and beauty clinic in London, Leisure Investments' health division was soon to have launched a spa in Bath, and most notably The Chancellors, a £13 million development in Oxfordshire. Due to open next year, this would have been Britain's first £2,000 per week top end spa operation; it was being developed for Leisure Investments by Allan and Tanya Wheway, who in the Seventies took over the running of Champneys at Tring, Hertfordshire, a leader in what is today a £25 million business.

Seeing the receivers in at Ragdale — where an entire consignment of leotards was

removed from the rails between teatime and dinner last Tuesday — is not the first, but the second jolt in just over a year to the industry, the first was in January last year, when Guinness, who owned Champneys, dismissed the Wheways in the name of improving profits. Accountants were put in to manage it, and the business changed drastically. Peter Lederer, the managing director, admits that: "Business is a little soft in the current economic climate". Not surprisingly, the Wheways are among the most passionately interested in purchasing Ragdale.

But the members of Ragdale's management buyout consortium have their doubts about whether their autonomy would survive under any but their own ownership. "The Wheways have a much more medical orientation than we do — and they don't even approve of us calling our treatment rooms 'cubicles'," Jean Oliver, the manager, says.

But succinct warnings for those who hear the cash registers ringing at the mention of the fat of the land come from within the industry. "The health farm business requires constant investment in building and equipment and very high starting ratios to succeed," Sue Harmsworth, a consultant health spa designer, says. Nevertheless, Ms Harmsworth believes the future is bright — but only for those with "sensitivity" and experience.

Anthea Gerrie

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BBC 1

6.00 Ceebs
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie
Mayer and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional
news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by
Open Air introduced by Eamonn Holmes
9.20 Glaston Live. Gloria Hunniford and
guests discuss a topical subject
10.00 News and weather followed by
Matchpoint. Angela Rappan's worse
than average quiz with, for no
obvious reason, an annoying tennis
scoring format (r)
10.25 Children's BBC, introduced by
Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays (r)
10.50 Burying. Cartoon series (r)
10.55 Five To Eleven. Celebrating Week
— a festival of the Enlightenment of the
Buddha
11.00 News and weather followed by
Open Air. Eamonn Holmes follows up
Simon Parkin's comments. Plus a report
from Michael Peckham on Australia on
that country's preoccupation with
putting television cameras in the most
unlikely places
12.00 News and weather followed by
Daytime Live 12.55 Regional news and
weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip
Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceebs) 1.50
Matchpoint. Quiz game
2.15 Anthony Powell's More Than
Meets The Eye. Alan Titchmarsh in
conversation with the director of the
Royal Ballet
2.45 The Six Million Dollar Man.
Harmless fun as the bionic man's life is
put at risk when he has to keep an
atomic bomb away from the bad guys
3.25 Popeye Double Bill

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Elements
Discovered. Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Look, Stranger. A profile of sculptor
Frank Roper (r)
9.25 Daytime On Two
10.00 News and weather followed by You
and Me (r)
10.15 Weekend Outlook (r) 2.20 Mightier
Than The Sword. The life and works of
St Arthur Outlaw-Couch (r) 2.50
Impressions. A day in the life of RAF
Coltsall in Norfolk (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by
Turning Japanese. Four expatriate
Melbournians reveal how their lives
have changed since they began living
and working in Tokyo (r)
3.35 Gardening With Wildlife (r) 3.50
News, regional news and weather
4.00 Wish We Were There. Tackling
Europe's air congestion problem (r)
4.30 Top Gear (r)
5.00 Film: Scared Stiff (1983, b/w)
Typical macabre Dean Martin and Jerry
Lewis comedy, in which the pair go
on the run from a gangster and take
refuge in a spooky castle. Directed by
George Marshall
6.45 Gardeners' World. Includes a
preview of the National Garden Festival
in Gateshead
7.15 What The Papers Say. Alan
Rushdown analyses The European's
chances of survival and reviews the
reporting of the local elections
7.30 Byrnyae. What did Londoners do for
fun before television? Colin Sorenson of
the Museum of London tells us.
Wales: Wales in Wales. Scotland:
Scottish Testimony. Northern Ireland:

BBC 3

3.50 New Yogi Bear Show. Cartoon 4.00
A Bear Behind (r) 4.10 Around The
World With Willy Fog. Cartoon
adventures 4.35 Eyspy. More puzzles
for two teams to solve
5.00 Newsround. News magazine for
younger viewers 5.10 Round The Twist.
Episode five of the comedy drama
from Australia about a widowed father
and his three children who live in a
house of horrors. (Ceebs)
5.35 Neighbours. (r) (Ceebs) Northern
Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter
Sissons and Maura Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazine. Wales:
neighbours
7.00 Wogan. The guests are Christopher
Plummer, Jonathan Ross, Bobby
Charlton and Bob "the Cat" Bevan.
Plus a song from Joan Armatrading
7.45 'Allo 'Allo! More cabaret from René
and the gang (r). (Ceebs)
8.10 Paradise. Possible Western series
starring Lee Horsley. A survivor from a
stagecoach accident suffers from
amnesia. As he is nursed back to health
at Paradise, he begins to remember
just what he was going there for.
(Ceebs)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn
Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 South of The Border
● The second series about the
women detectives Pearl and Finn opens
noisily with a car crash and a
mugging but soon takes a less violent
and more interesting turn. Looking at
him like Arthur Daley's younger brother,
Eddie (Nigel Terry) runs an
amusement arcade and an antique
American car and has invented an
aerial that can pick up information off
computer screens. Meanwhile his
estranged wife is fighting to keep open

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good
Morning Britain presented by Beatrice
Hollister and, from 7.00, by Mike
Morris 7.30 Sons and Daughters
6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and
9.00. After Nine includes Russell
Grant's sun signs for the week
ahead
9.25 Cross Words. Crossword game show
hosted by Tom O'Connor 8.55 Thames
News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John
Aspinall chairs a topical discussion
10.40 This Morning. Megawatts series
presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard
Madeley. Today's edition includes
advice on fashion, holidays and
gardening. With national and
international news at 10.55 and regional
news at 11.55 followed by national
weather
12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets
series (r) 12.30 Home and Away.
Australian crime serial about a
couple and their love for a child
1.00 News at One and weather 1.30
Thames News and weather
1.30 Coming of Age. New American
comedy starring Paul Dooley as a retired
airline pilot. With Phyllis Newman
and Glynis Johns 2.00 A Country
Practice. Medical drama serial set in
rural Australia
2.30 It's a Dog's Life. A look at the
training of gun dogs for the forthcoming
shooting season, and at an unusual
Newfoundland breed with a reputation

ITV CENTRAL

for swimming. Presented by
Veronica Cartwood and Dennis
Stillicorn
3.00 Sounds Like Music. The final edition
of the quiz on stage and screen
musicals 3.25 Thames News and
weather 3.30 Sons and Daughters
4.00 Owl TV. Entertaining wildlife
magazine presented by Michaela
Strachan. Today, a romp with some
gorillas at Howells Zoo and a visit to a
great ancient Cornwell. (Ceebs)
4.20 Disney's Duck. Takes 4.45 Fun
House. Stupid fun and games
5.10 Home and Away (r)
5.40 News and weather
5.55 Police 8 Plus with Shaw Taylor
6.00 6 O'Clock News. Includes an
examination of five crimes that took
place over the Bank Holiday
weekend in the south-east, talking to the
police and victims to see what
progress has been made. Plus an
interview with the pop group New
Kids on the Block
7.00 Through the Keyhole. Another peep
into celebrities' homes with Lord
Gossett and David Frost. This
week's guests are Willie Rushton, Eve
Pollard and Patrick Lichfield. (Oracle)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
8.00 Surgical Spirit. Energetic comedy
starring Nicholas McAvoy as an
impatient warman surgeon
8.30 Brian Conley - This Way Up. More
enthusiastic comedy from Brian Conley
— with help from Andrew Secombe
and Jonathan Kydd
9.00 The Chief. Gapping police series
with Tim Pigeon-Smith's embattled chief

ITV SOUTH

constable having to respond quickly
when a group of vigilantes decide to
take the law into their own hands.
(Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten and weather 10.35
LWT News at Ten and weather
10.40 The London Programme talks to six
families who claim they have been badly
treated by the authorities after the
murder of a loved one
11.00 Beauty and the Beast. Titled
adventures of a woman lawyer and her
half-man/half-beast minder who hails
from New York's nether world. Starring
Linda Hamilton and Ron Perlman
12.05am Who Got It Made. Lively American
sitcom starring Teri Copley
12.30 William Tell. Drama series about the
legendary Swiss hero slaying Will
Lymen and Jeremy Clyde
1.00 The James White Radio Show.
Meganouth James White presents
more videos, comedy and live music
— in-between insulting his phone callers
2.00 Cinema Attractions. The latest news
from the American movie scene
2.30 Golf: The American PGA Tour
1990. Action from the 11th of the 20
tournaments on the US PGA tour —
the GTE Byron Nelson
3.30 Isle of Hoppers. Washington v
Philadelphia
4.30 Crusade in Europe (b/w). Series
based on the wartime memoirs of
General Dwight D. Eisenhower. This
week's edition covers the Allied
campaign up the Rhine Valley and
the advance from France to the Third Army
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

Channel 4

8.00 The Art of Landscape. Breathtaking
scapes of the natural world set to music
8.30 The Channel 4 Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme
introduced by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and
business news presented by
Susanrah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning
series. Today's guest is Cab Calloway
2.00 IT For The Terrified. Information
technology explained in a dramatized
form (r). (Oracle)
2.30 Film: Summer Storm (1944, b/w)
starring Linda Darnell and George
Sanders. Curious Hollywood version
of Chekhov's The Shooting Party, in
which a beautiful young peasant girl
brings tragedy to herself and those who
know her. Directed by Douglas Sirk
4.25 The Tatler. An art and design
information film made for the GPO in the
1930s by the inventive Len Lyne,
stressing the importance of poster
early in the day
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. General knowledge
quiz presented in non-stop style by the
abundant William G. Stewart
5.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage comedy
starring Lucille Ball
5.30 A Hundred Acres. Clay Jones
makes his weekly visit to see the
changes of a hundred acre area of
English countryside
6.45 Painted Tales. Van Gogh's
Sunflowers brought to life. George Melly
and Alwyn Taylor provide the
voices for this animated series aiming
to introduce art to the young
6.00 Buzz. Magazine programme based
on an American MTV series. This week's
programme is concerned with
cultural stereotypes and how different
people are taken from jazz, with
side glances at

Channel 5

another willing celebrity
7.00 Channel 4 News and weather
7.55 Book Chicks. Anthony Fraser
reviews Death's Caution Face, the new
novel by the veteran crime writer
Julian Symons. (Oracle)
8.00 Short Stories. Nicholas Adler and
Caroline Sherwood show their skills in
the slot for new documentary
business. Daily. Financial and
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cultural stereotypes and how different
people are taken from jazz, with
side glances at

Channel 6

little regarded low art form and the
society in which it was produced. It
was perhaps predictable that Walt
Disney would not be amused by a
parody of Mickey Mouse in *Art Fakes*, to
the extent of taking the perpetrator
Dan O'Neil to court for "defiling
Mickey's innocent delinquency".
Or that an American cartoonist
should be the subject of a comic book
that was "an important contributing
factor to juvenile delinquency". Less
obvious but just as strong was the role
of Jack Kirby's Captain America in
underpinning the mood of patriotism
during the Second World War. As
well as the documentary staples of
interviews and archive film, Mann
uses animation and popular song to
bring the comics alive

Channel 7

12.55am Buzz. A repeat of the
programme shown at 6.00
1.25 Star Test. A repeat of the
programme shown at 6.30. Ends at 1.55

Channel 8

6.55am Open University (FM only)
6.55 Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Overlive,
May Night: SNQ under Neelme
Jain; Duet: Romance; St Paul CO under Pina
Zuliani; Granados (The Maiden and the
Nightingale; Alicia Delacorte; The Two
Pigeons; Parsi Opera; Jacques
Maurice; Jacques
6.55am Open University (FM only)
6.55 Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Overlive,
May Night: SNQ under Neelme
Jain; Duet: Romance; St Paul CO under Pina
Zuliani; Granados (The Maiden and the
Nightingale; Alicia Delacorte; The Two
Pigeons; Parsi Opera; Jacques
Maurice; Jacques
6.55am Open University (FM only)
6.55 Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Overlive,
May Night: SNQ under Neelme
Jain; Duet: Romance; St Paul CO under Pina
Zuliani; Granados (The Maiden and the
Nightingale; Alicia Delacorte; The Two
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Channel 9

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TEMPUS

British Shoe puts boot into Sears

SEARS, the retailing group which owns Selfridges, could do with a few customers like Imelda Marcos. Its biggest problem is British Shoe Corporation, which includes Saxe, Dolis and Freeman Hardy Willis and which is suffering from a surfeit of shops.

Profits from British Shoe fell by £39 million to just over £50 million and were a main factor in the downturn in Sears results as a whole. Pre-tax profits for the group fell from £273 million to £231 million for the year to January 1990 on sales of £2.1 billion, down from £2.78 billion.

Earnings per share fell from 12.3p to 11.1p and the final dividend is 3.83p making 5.35p for the year as a whole, up 5 per cent. Trading profits fell from £278 million to £200 million but pre-tax profits benefited from a drop in the interest charge from £36.3 million to £10.6 million as a result of the sale of William Hill, the betting chain, and an £18 million increase in other income from property.

Property profits fell from £72.7 million to £56.8 million mostly as a result of Galford Sears, the housebuilding subsidiary where profits more than halved to £13.6 million.

Sears has taken steps to rationalize British Shoe — shops will be closed and the chains and management have been reorganized. The cost of the reorganization will be £15 million and Sears expects to reap £30 million from the sale of the shops. But many believe it is too little, too late.

As a group Sears is stuffed full of valuable businesses. Selfridges, which made £25 million last year, is worth at least £300 million on its own. Mappin & Webb and Garsard, the jewelry businesses, would be snapped up in a flash if they



Shoe-shocked: Geoffrey Maitland Smith (left), chairman of Sears, with Michael Pickard, the chief executive

ever came on to the market. But the retailing businesses are overshadowed by British Shoe and until Sears can prove that its strategy for that business is correct the City will remain sceptical. The shares, down 3 1/2p at 88 1/2p, are unlikely to rise dramatically in the short term but are underpinned by net assets of 90p a share. Assuming profits of £180 million this year, they are trading on a p/e multiple of just over 10.

BOC Group

MANY British companies are running into problems, but the BOC Group is going from strength to strength. After a rise of 7 per cent in the first

quarter, BOC's profits rose by 18 per cent in the second. That left the pre-tax total 12 per cent up at £170 million for the six months to March and earnings per share 13 per cent higher at 23.8p.

According to the company, the increase was not the result of favourable currency movements, acquisitions, asset disposals or its longstanding pension holiday. While the rise in the sales of industrial gases, which provide three-quarters of profits, slowed to just 3 to 4 per cent by volume in North America and Europe, this was offset by double-digit volume growth in the Far East, where BOC has 14 plants under construction in a bid to keep up with demand.

Mr Dick Giordano, the

chairman and chief executive, does not see a recession in BOC's customer-base within the next 12 months and, anyway, the gases business has defensive qualities. Cylinder rental and take or pay contracts account for between a third and a half of turnover, which protects revenues from a downswing in demand.

Moreover, only 15 per cent of bottled gases go into heavy industries such as steelmaking and heavy chemicals, compared with about half a decade ago. New uses in refrigeration have expanded markets in food distribution, which is relatively recession proof.

The first-half results were a touch above expectations, though analysts are sticking with forecasts of full-year

profits of £370 million and earnings of 53p, implying a prospective p/e ratio of under 10 with the shares up 3p at 510p. Given that the proposal to have off its US healthcare business could add 100p to the share price on some estimates, the shares remain attractive.

Harrisons & Crosfield

HARRISONS & Crosfield is putting the bravest possible corporate face on its £113 million acquisition of Crossley Builders' Merchants. It is buying Crossley on an historic price/earnings ratio of 14.1 and will pay for the deal

through a one-for-five rights issue at 132p which will raise a net £147 million.

There could be some, though modest, earnings dilution this year because of the Crossley purchase and only a flat earnings picture in 1991. But H&C was determined to become Britain's market leader in the timber and building supplies field.

H&C has, meanwhile, outlined its dividend (though not its profit) hopes for 1990 and suggests that it will be paying an interim dividend of 3.6p (3.4p) and a final of not less than 5.4p (5.1p).

The decision to fund Crossley via a rights issue rather than higher borrowings leaves H&C with roughly £34 million in spare cash from the rights money and allows the group to retain its flexibility to borrow.

Had it borrowed, H&C would have seen gearing rise from 45 per cent at the December 31 balance-sheet date to 70 per cent and interest cover fall from 7.8 times to 5 times. Under the rights issue route, gearing eases to 30 per cent and interest cover only comes down a few points to 7.5 times.

More deals, though probably not as expensive, loom as H&C adds further to its core business segments of chemicals/industrial, food and agriculture and timber and building interests.

H&C argues that it is able to avoid the worst of the depression in the timber and building's merchants industry because it will be serving the professional end of the market which, it suggests, is more stable.

Pre-tax profit estimates of £150 million (£137 million) put the shares at 150p, down 10p, on a rating of 9.3, backed by a yield of 8 per cent. Hold.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Smith & Nephew up 5% in first quarter

PROFITS at Smith & Nephew, the surgical dressings and cosmetics group, rose by 5 per cent to £30.7 million before tax in the 12 weeks to March 24. Sales were 13 per cent higher at £172 million, though the company said the rise would have been only 9 per cent without currency benefits.

The tax charge fell two points to 25 per cent. As a result, fully-diluted earnings per share, up 7 per cent at 2.05p, rose faster than pre-tax profits, despite a slight increase in the issued share capital. Smith & Nephew said it has made no provision for a successful legal action brought against it in the US by Polteco, a Californian company. It intends to appeal.

Camford for Markheath

THE board of Camford Engineering has finally surrendered and recommended the £70 million hostile bid by Markheath Securities, although still saying that the final offer undervalued its prospects and properties. Earlier, Markheath had said that it had bought, or had valid acceptances for, 50.4 per cent. The bid was declared unconditional.

MD sacked at Rush

MR NIGEL Dunnett, the managing director of Rush & Tompkins, the builder, was one of 800 staff made redundant this week. The names of the other directors being dismissed are, for the moment, being withheld. Touche Ross, acting as receiver, estimates Rush & Tompkins and its joint venture companies owe their banks more than £300 million.

Allied to raise £4.1m

ALLIED Leisure, the USM ten-pin bowling company, is raising £4.12 million by an underwritten one-for-three rights issue at 100p a share to expand its leisure businesses. It is forecasting pre-tax profits for the year to July of not less than £2.5 million, well up from £960,000 last year and ahead of analysts' forecasts of £2.1 million.

Allied sold its Wimpy restaurants to Grand Metropolitan for £13 million in January. It plans to open a further four MegaBow ten-pin bowling centres by the end of this year and has plans for a fourth night club. Allied's shares fell 4p to 113p on the news.

Midsummer alleges libel

MIDSUMMER Leisure and Mr Adam Page, its chairman, have issued a writ against Mr Ronald Hart, a former director of the company, alleging libel in connection with a press release issued by Mr Hart on May 7. European Leisure's bid for Midsummer closes today. To date, the bidder has claimed 34.3 per cent of Midsummer equity.

Profits rise at Shaxson

KING & Shaxson, the discount house, lifted profits, after tax and transfers to reserves, to £2 million in the year to end-April, compared to £1.7 million the year before. This is despite the rise in interest rates which traditionally reduces profits for discount houses. King is increasing its final dividend by 1p to 7.75p, making 10.25p, up 11 per cent.

Kohl tells East Germany to end curbs on property

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business Correspondent

DR HELMUT Kohl, the West German Chancellor, insisted that East Germany must open its property markets to Westerners before German monetary union can proceed.

His demands are likely to be opposed by East Germany, which is anxious to avoid a massive influx of foreign property speculators.

Dr Kohl's stance could provide a stumbling block to West and East Germany achieving monetary union by July 2, as planned.

British property developers, desperate to find an investment outlet in the wake of the crash in the domestic property market, are expressing interest in buying East German properties. However, they face legal uncertainty and possible repossession if they make a deal too soon.

Dr Kohl, in an address to

the Bundestag, said: "Further details of the state treaty are still being negotiated and it is obvious to me that the currency swap is indisputably linked to an overall agreement of the state treaty."

The treaty refers to the reunification arrangement between the two governments under the Basic Law, which guarantees the freedom of property ownership. But such ownership is not allowed by the East German constitution, except for individually-owned, one-family homes. Dr Kohl indicated that the East German government should make interim arrangements to allow Westerners to buy property.

Dr Kohl's office has confirmed that a possible compromise could involve granting permission only to investors who invest and cre-

ate jobs in East Germany. Meanwhile, numerous property advisers have set up offices in West Berlin in the hope of moving into an as yet undeveloped market.

Dr Hans Hellberg, chief executive of the German operations of Jones Lang Wootton, the British property agent that opened a Berlin office just over two months ago, estimated that property prices in East Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig would achieve West German levels within two or three years.

However, he gave a warning that legal uncertainty over property titles could still prove an obstacle for Western firms.

In the 1950s, East Germany forced repossessions of numerous properties, which were reallocated to East German citizens.

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday, June 28, 1990, 10:00 a. m. at the BASF Feilerabendhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47 Ludwigshafen/Rhine, West Germany

Agenda

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Group for 1989, presentation of the 1989 Annual Report covering BASF Aktiengesellschaft and the BASF Group; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report.
2. Declaration of dividend.
3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board.
4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors.
5. Appointment of auditors.
6. Election of a member of the Supervisory Board.

Shareholders wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote must have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depository bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depository banks and the full Agenda are published in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 88 of May 11, 1990.

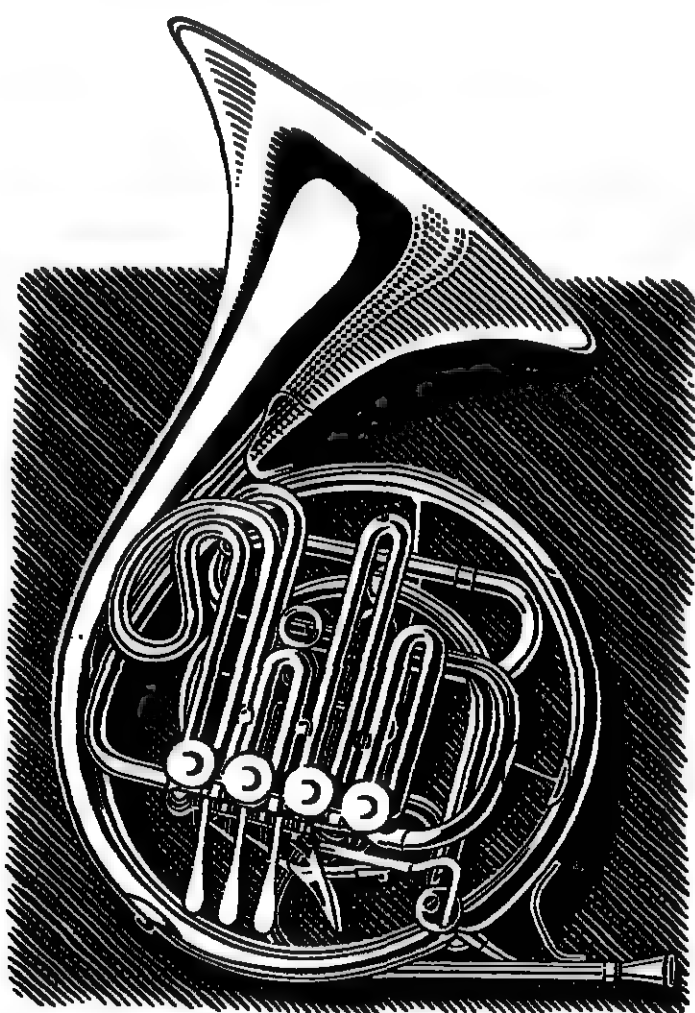
Depository banks in the U.K.: Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Wednesday, June 20, 1990.

The Board of Executive Directors
Ludwigshafen/Rhine,
May 11, 1990

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
D-6700 Ludwigshafen

BASF



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Harrisons & Crossfield to pay £113m for Crossley

By Colin Campbell

HARRISONS & Crossfield is buying Crossley Builders Merchants from Bowater Industries for £113 million, which it will fund through a one-for-five rights issue at 132p a share to raise a net £147 million.

Mr George Paul, H&C's chief executive, said the deal complements the group's Harcross timber and building supplies division, and claims the deal will propel H&C from fourth to first in British timber and building supplies.

However, H&C's market leadership claims were disputed last night by Meyer International, which said it had a combined turnover in this field of £750 million with 300 branches.

Crossley is being bought on the basis of £55.3 million for its shares and a debt assumption of £57.7 million, making an overall £113 million, and an exit p/e ratio of 14.1 times.

At present, Crossley is the sixth largest builders' merchant in Britain in terms of turnover, with 112 branches.

The combined division would have sales of £512 million and 248 branches, and make H&C number two in the Republic of Ireland, number five in Australia, and number 20 in the US timber and building supplies market.

In the year ended December, Crossley earned operating profits of £12.3 million on a turnover of £203.9 million.

Mr Paul admitted that H&C had to fight off competitive

bidders for Crossley, though insisted that H&C had not paid more than it had agreed because of the competitive situation. "It was a unique opportunity for us to develop. You do not buy a quality business cheap," he said.

Analysts suggest the purchase and the rights issue will lead to modest earnings dilution for H&C this year.

Though H&C would not outline its profit expectations for 1990, it did forecast that it would pay an interim dividend of 3.6p (3.4p) and that it proposed to pay a final dividend of not less than 5.4p (5.1p), making a total of 9p for the current financial year.

H&C said the Crossley deal was unconditional as to possible referral to the Monop-

lies and Mergers Commission. Mr Paul said the two businesses would trade under the "Harcross" name and that because both had a similar customer profile that the deal would strengthen Harcross' national network.

It was a principal objective of H&C to build a strong market position in each of its core businesses, and with this in mind Crossley would be a good fit, Mr Paul added.

All H&C directors intend taking up their rights in full, either for themselves or for their immediate families.

H&C added yesterday that the overall performance in the year to date was a "little ahead".

Times, page 24

GA loses £80.9m after storms

By Our City Staff

THE violent storms which wrought more than £110 million of damage worldwide this winter has pushed General Accident, the composite insurer, to a loss of £80.9 million in the first three months of the year.

This compares with a pre-tax profit of £54.9 million in the first quarter of 1989.

The biggest losses were caused by the storms in Britain during January and February.

General Accident made an underwriting loss of £80.2 million, after a profit of £10.2 million last year.

The losses were sharply higher than the figures forecast by the group just in February.

Mr Nelson Robertson, chief general manager, said this was because the group had under-assessed the continuing damage done by later storms, and the costs of reinstating reinsurance premiums.

The group also made underwriting losses in all its international divisions, including a £29.5 million deficit in the US, £11.1 million worse than in 1989.

Only General Accident's Canadian subsidiary improved, with £4.6 million of losses, down from £5.6 million.

Elsewhere, the group struggled with other weather damage and tougher competition on premiums.

The losses occurred despite a 11 per cent increase in premium income to £783 million.

They were eased slightly by a 2 per cent surge in investment income to £105 million, but this was held back by the number of claims the insurer was forced to settle in the quarter.

The flood of claims also knocked 20 per cent off General Accident's net asset value, which ended the quarter at 955p a share.

Mr Robertson said the company was reviewing its insurance premiums after the losses, and had increased its motor policy prices by 5 per cent this month.

He did not rule out another rise before the year-end.

"We are starting off from a poor base this year, even though 75 per cent of the deterioration is due to storm damage," said Mr Robertson. "I'm touching wood that there won't be another storm like this in the rest of the year."

COMMENT

Anecdotal evidence versus the wisdom of Salomon

Thank God its Friday has seldom been more true than today. In the four short days since the May Day holiday, the news from the industrial front has been almost wholly bad. British Telecom will be shedding up to 5,000 employees. Hanson is losing 1,200 people at its Imperial Tobacco plants at Bristol. Jobs are at risk on Merseyside and GKN is warning that first half profits are under pressure. British Petroleum profits fell sharply in the first quarter and a weak chemicals market is likely to hit profits through the year. Sears profits were down, 800 people are losing their jobs because Rush & Tompkins has gone broke. The situation at British & Commonwealth gets worse by the day and Standard Chartered had little but gloom to report at its annual meeting.

In Washington, the Chancellor repeated his interest rate patter while the Bank of England is warning of inflation coming close to 10 per cent. The publication of the Retail Price Index today will do nothing to lighten the darkness which seems to surround industry on every side.

In the face of all that, it would be easy to be miserable, but curiously the overall picture is not nearly so bad as the sad anecdotes would suggest. In the case of the job losses and profits warnings, there is in virtually every case a specific reason other than general economic malaise. British Telecom was floated on the basis of the

profits gains to come from efficiency increases. Imperial is a victim of the welcome (though not to Hanson) trend of soft demand for tobacco. GKN was hit by the Ford strikes and BP by the oil price. British & Commonwealth, Standard Chartered? Their stories are so familiar they do not bare repetition.

The end of the week's gloom coincided with an optimistic survey from Salomon Bros, which maintains that while the UK service sector slump is structural rather than cyclical, "The UK Export Led Manufacturing Boom is Here to Stay." Salomon insists there is a stark contrast between the two sectors, with service under severe pressure but manufacturing being boosted by medium term growth industries such as aerospace and electronics and by direct foreign investment, particularly in the motor and electronics industries.

According to Salomon, which has a reasonable global view, the UK is being viewed as a western equivalent of Hong Kong. UK labour costs are relatively low, skill standards relatively high, infrastructure and communications are good and there's government money available for incomers prepared to go to various regions, where labour relations tend to be reasonable.

The Hong Kong of Europe may not be a particularly attractive label to pin on the mother of the industrial revolution, but it is a sight more attractive than contemplating a half decade of recession.

WTA: eat or be eaten

Stephen Walls did a good job of securing a high bid price for his old company, Plessey. He will not, however, wish to perform the same function for Wiggins Teape Appleton when this quality company peaks out from beneath the skirts of BAT Industries. Yet that is the danger. The international paper industry is going through an extraordinary period of global wheeling and dealing as Scandinavian and North American groups vie for strength in the single European market and for strong market positions in the high value-added end of the paper business.

WTA fills both these desirable requirements to an extent that will make it unique among independent groups. Appleton, which accounted for £93 million of the £201 million 1989 trading profit, has about half the US market for carbonless papers, where value-added is about twice that for ordinary paper and the market is still expected to grow at 4 per cent a year.

Wiggins Teape has about 30 per cent of the European carbonless paper market. WTA is also ahead of all but Japanese groups in the fast-growing thermal paper market. The Iberian pulp operations (which contributed £53 million) and the merchanting network would also be of great interest to competitors.

An independent WTA without any protection from BAT will therefore have to eat or be eaten in the medium term. Its fate will largely depend on the institutional shareholders in BAT who will initially control most of its shares.

Despite its acknowledged qualities, WTA would probably trade at a lowly rating at this stage of the paper cycle if compared with other British companies — in which case, it would be more likely to be eaten. The high profile new top management and a three-week roadshow should achieve a modestly higher rating, say 10.5 times prospective earnings of 19.5p per share with a dividend yield of 5.5 per cent. That would break the magic £1 billion market, but will not deter ambitious predators.

The onus will therefore be on institutions to back the logic of unbundling BAT, which is that its more remote parts would be better off standing on their own. The new top management will also be on its mettle to prove itself this year against the background of sharp falls in profit from more run-of-the-mill producers. If it does so, then the 34 per cent growth in trading profits over the previous four years should provide a platform to enhance the future growth rate through acquisitions.

David Brewerton

Jaguar's Egan joins board of Berisford

SIR John Egan, who is to retire as chairman of Jaguar at the end of June following its takeover by Ford, is joining the board of Berisford International, the British Sugar group.

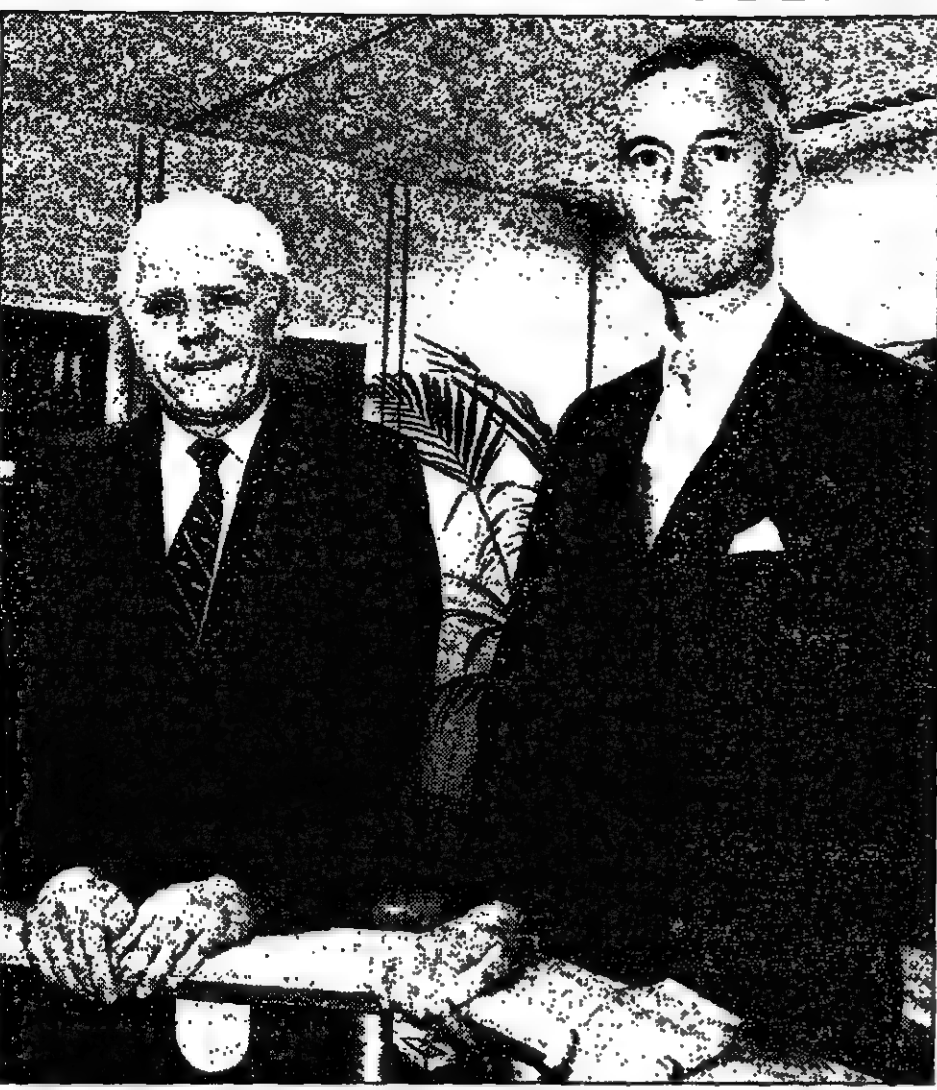
Sir John said: "I'm joining to a non-executive role and really I'm supporting John Schlater, the chairman, who is a colleague of mine on another board, Foreign and Colonial."

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the business. From what I've seen, there are some splendid businesses in among the Berisford group."

Also joining Berisford as a non-executive director is Dr Brian Smith, formerly chairman of MB Group.

Berisford also announced the appointment of two executive directors, Mr Peter Jackson, managing director of British Sugar, and Mr Peter Butler, finance director of Bristar.

Berisford is currently facing large losses on its New York property portfolio and is hoping that the rival sugar giant, Tate & Lyle, will launch a takeover bid.



Berisford recruit: Sir John Egan, left, with John Schlater, chairman, yesterday

BP reduces its gearing to 39%

By Colin Campbell

BRITISH Petroleum is paying a March quarterly dividend of 3.95p after first-quarter replacement cost profits of £361 million against £381 million.

The December quarterly payment was also 3.95p a share, although, in the first quarter of 1989, the three-month dividend was 3.65p.

On an historical cost basis, March quarterly profits were £344 million compared with £608 million, leaving net earnings at 6.4p a share (10.3p). BP says that the latest quarter included £17 million of stockholding losses, and the comparative previous quarter included £227 million of gains.

Gearing has eased from 42

per cent at the December year-end to 39 per cent, and BP has so far "booked" \$1.6 billion of its intended \$2.8 billion of asset sales planned for 1990. The group said that it was in fresh talks about a possible sale of its stake in the Australian Olympic Dam project with its joint partner, Western Mining, which would probably realize \$600 million. The sale was finally held back from the interests that BP Minerals sold to RTZ last year.

Profits from chemicals, down at £63 million (£163 million), had probably now reached the bottom, BP said.

BP shares traded 5p lower at 310p.

BCPF appeals to Globe investors

By Neil Bennett

THE British Coal Pension Funds have appealed to investors to treat their £1.03 billion hostile bid for Globe Investment Trust as a "straight commercial transaction," and not to pay attention to other issues.

Dr Paul Whitney, the chief executive of CIN Management which runs the funds, was speaking on the launch of the offer document for Globe, Britain's largest trust.

"It is now for shareholders to decide on the merits of the offer. At a fixed price of 191p it is very attractive in a volatile market," he said.

The document also gives details of Malvern UK Index

Trust, the index tracking fund CIN is offering as an alternative to the cash offer. Malvern will be run by Edinburgh Fund Managers, which is controlled by the Coal Board via British Investment Trust.

The Coal Board is paying listing fees for the new trust, but investors will have to pay management fees of 0.25 per cent. The fund needs to attract at least £10 million or 200 shareholders to be launched.

A Globe telephone poll of shareholders found about a quarter oppose the bid. But they represent only 5 per cent of the shares and the outcome will be decided by 10 institutional shareholders.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Got any old tiles, Guv?

BEHIND Harrisons & Crossfield's decision to buy Bowater's builders merchant subsidiary, Crossley, for £113 million lies a carefully planned covert operation. Given that Bowater was adamant that its Crossley employees should not be aware that the company was up for sale, and that Harrisons' directors were nevertheless determined to inspect each of its 112 depots, they carried out their fact-finding missions inconspicuously. And chief executive George Paul, normally instantly recognizable because of his tall, debonair and aristocratic demeanour, went to extraordinary lengths to disguise himself when he called in at 13 of Crossley's depots. Wearing a flat cap, scruffy trousers, and his grandfather's overcoat, he then set Crossley's employees the near impossible task of finding replacement roof tiles for his period country house in East Anglia. "I knew that they wouldn't have any but the good thing was that they were incredibly helpful and went to great lengths to locate a stockist," Paul, aged 50, quips. And his disguise was clearly convincing. After one such secret mission, he arrived at Humberside airport to return to Norwich and found himself next to an old friend, former Reckitt & Colman chairman Sir James Clesminton — these days chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board. "We sat on the Norwich Union board together, but when I greeted him he looked me up and down in amazement,

wondering who this scruffy chap was," says Paul. "It was only when he studied my face he recognized me."

AN INACCURATE drawing of an aeroplane, used in a South African Airways advertisement on the front page of the Financial Times yesterday, sent Rolls-Royce shares a penny or two higher. Bored market-makers were forecasting an imminent and sizeable order for Rolls-Royce engines — given that two engines were missing from the wing of the aforementioned plane. "Some people have even been attributing the strength of sterling to rumours of a large Rolls-Royce order," chuckled one market man.

Morrell at bay A STAG weekend in Berlin has ended with John Morrell, who runs James Capel's fixed interest division, laid up in the Martin Luther hospital there.



"Couldn't we claim for weather damage like everybody else?"

Morrell, a bachelor, described by his City colleagues as "a bit crusty at times but otherwise lively and a bon viveur," suffered a heart attack half way through the stag celebrations. A party of well-wishers who had intended to visit him this weekend have, I am told, been deterred from doing so after Morrell, who is recovering well and clearly once again in good humour, accused them of wanting to make the journey just so that they could visit a local night club. We, and his many City friends, wish him a full and speedy recovery.

FROM A Surrey insurance broker's circular: "Man is the only creature who spends two-thirds of his lifetime saving up for old age and the last third denying that it has arrived."

Swingaoar feat

ONE of the most impressive flotations BZW has been involved in all year was successfully completed yesterday when Simon Woods, head of research in BZW's Singapore office, became the first person to row single-handed round the island of Singapore. Hoping to navigate the 70 nautical mile course (approximately 80 land miles) in less than 24 hours, he actually managed to complete it in 15hrs 6min. His feat — which left him complaining of sunburn and a sore posterior — is expected to have raised more than \$1m (£320,000) for six children's charities, and was done as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Republic of Singapore. Woods, aged 36, deserves special praise since he has,

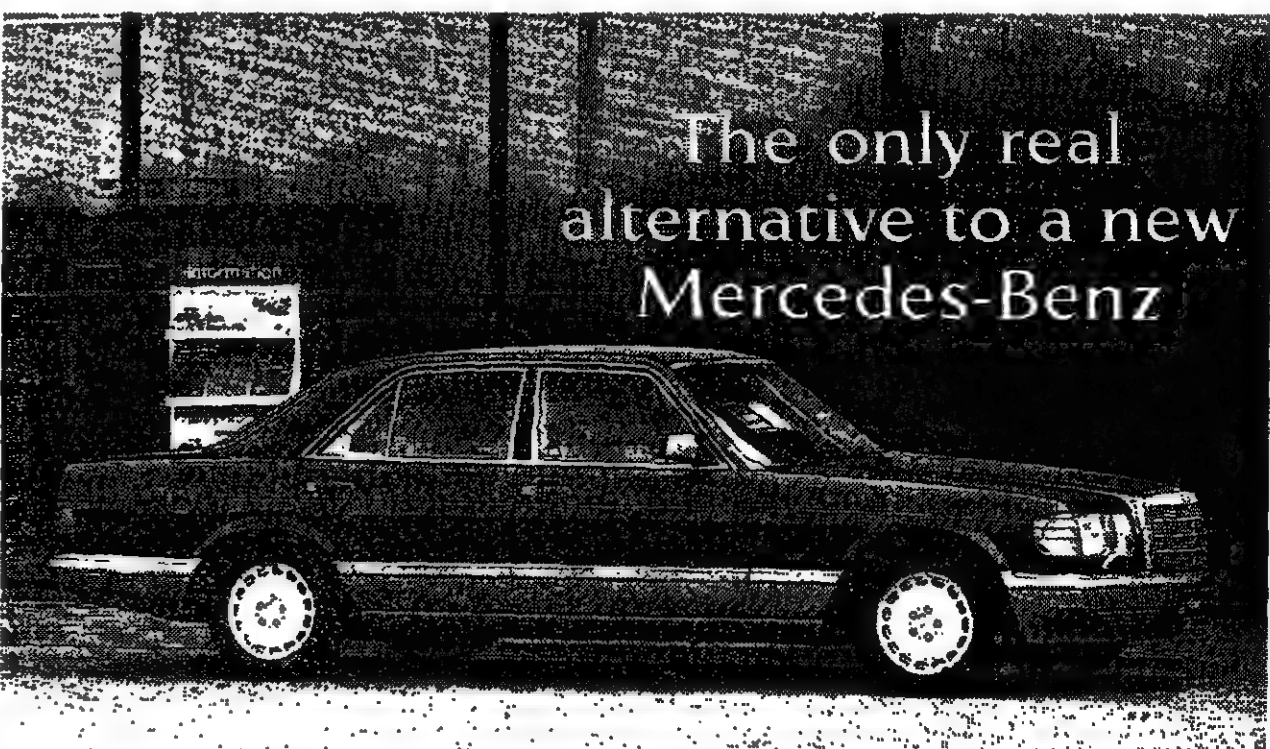
since childhood, suffered from polio and can walk only with the aid of crutches.

ANOTHER in the never-ending but ever deteriorating series, comes from a reader in Maidenhead, Berkshire — about the Scottish minister called Mr Marks, who named his dog Spencer so his flock could say: "Here comes Mr Marks and Spencer."

Butt of humour

MRS Thatcher's favourite housebuilder, Sir Lawrie Barratt, who last year retired as chairman of Barratt Developments to assume the role of life president, is about to have his bluff unceremoniously called by 13 Yorkshire farmers. Barratt, the owner of the 4,280-acre Farndale Estate on the North Yorkshire Moors — which he uses solely for grouse shooting — had hoped to buy an adjacent 2,000-acre valley in which the aforementioned farmers reside. And, since they had bought their properties for a fraction of their true market value from Yorkshire Water two years ago, he offered them 50 per cent more than they had originally paid. Having already dismissed this offer as "devisory and ridiculous," today is their official deadline for acceptance. But word from the Yorkshire dales is that they will, to a man, decline. With characteristic Yorkshire humour they have also turned the tables on Barratt. For they intend to offer to buy his Farndale Estate for 50 per cent more than the £1.5 million he paid in 1982.

Carol Leonard



The only real alternative to a new Mercedes-Benz

Just because overall quality is the strength in a car you value most, don't think you have to spend more than a routine new-car price. Your choice is as straightforward as it is sensible: a used Mercedes-Benz. You'll be buying more than common-sense, too: top-drawer engineering and assembly, for instance, and the pride and care that makes such superior workmanship possible: an integrity that quells the uncertainty most people feel when they're buying a used car. And you'll be buying a history of innovative safety engineering that

is unmatched by any other manufacturer. When you buy an Approved Quality Used Mercedes-Benz through an authorised dealer, you're also protected by at least 12-months' mechanical insurance. In an obvious material sense, therefore, investing in quality of this order is very much its own reward. A used Mercedes-Benz is a car that deserves your trust. It's like no other used car. That's why it also makes more sense than just a run-of-the-mill new car costing the same money. You'll be able to measure your satisfaction in years



ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR IN THE WORLD

International phone call charges in EC cartel inquiry

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

THE European Commission is to investigate international telephone charges, to see whether the world's telecommunications authorities run a cartel preventing competition.

The investigation, likely to last at least nine months, will not look at the very high profits made by national telephone monopolies on international calls, because Brussels has no authority to prevent overcharging.

However, if it finds that the international agreements on sharing the costs of a call between two countries constitute a cartel to keep out competitors, it could order the 12 EC telephone authorities to change pricing arrangements with other countries.

Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner for competition policy, said yesterday that consumers must benefit from an international telephone charging system which allowed genuine competition between telecommunications operators.

"This is essential for European business and also for individuals," he said.

Sir Leon faces two big obstacles: first, the Treaty of

Rome allows investigation only of anti-competitive behaviour, not overcharging; and, secondly, Brussels cannot apply its findings to any country outside the EC.

International call charges are regulated by the Consultative Committee for International Telegraphs and Telephones (CCITT), a UN agency representing 160 countries. Its main purpose is to allocate money collected by telephone companies in the caller's home country to telecommunications authorities in the destination country.

Brussels will want to know whether the charges are laid down under a notional division of profits or whether the rules are simply an administrative arrangement.

In the first case, Brussels may be able to prove that the whole system is a giant cartel preventing competition; in the second, it is hard to see where Brussels could intervene.

The cost to a telephone company of an international call has fallen rapidly with new technology, so international calls are now much more profitable.

Sir Leon can seek to prove

that the money transfer arrangements enable telephone companies to insist on a minimum level of payment which would squeeze out small independent companies trying to establish themselves by offering cheaper rates.

The commission said that it was important for businesses to know whether they could cut telephone bills by setting up in countries with lower international rates.

It is not clear what Brussels could do if it found a cartel, but requiring EC telecommunications authorities to make room for competitors could have a profound effect on the world market.

The whole issue is being discussed at talks in Geneva on extending the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to services.

● The Office of Fair Trading is considering legal action against nearly 20 companies that operated a cartel to fix fuel prices. Sir Gordon Borrie, the OFT director general, said he was considering taking the companies, operating mainly in north-east England, to court to seek orders prohibiting similar future agreements.



Significant rise in trading: Andros Stakis yesterday

Stakis up despite doubled interest

By Jeremy Andrews

DESPITE a more than doubled interest bill of £3.3 million, interim profits at Stakis, the Glasgow hotel group, rose by 7.8 per cent to £12.4 million in the six months to April 1.

A sharply lower tax charge, due to the group's medium-term policy of selling existing hotels and building new ones, boosted post-tax profits by 32 per cent to £11.8 million and earnings per share by 29 per cent to 4.4p a share. The interim dividend keeps pace with a 27 per cent increase to 0.9p a share (0.71p).

The total interest during the period was £8.5 million, with £5.2 million being capitalized against the value of the developing hotels. Borrowings stand at £149 million, giving gearing of about 50 per cent.

The £8.6 million contribution by the hotels division to operating profits of £16.1 million included a £3 million gain on the sale of the Newcastle Airport hotel which, according to Mr Andros Stakis, managing director, "did not conform to the company's development strategy."

Stripping out that sale, trading profits fell from £5.9 million to £5.6 million, reflecting the smaller number of rooms open. On a per unit basis, trading was up significantly.

Surfeit of shops 'has put retail sector in trouble'

By Gillian Bowditch

BRITAIN has too many shops, according to Mr Richard Eassie, chairman of Verdict, the market research organization which specializes in retailing.

Mr Eassie, speaking at the Verdict Retail Conference in London, said a lot of the sector's present troubles are self-imposed.

Over-confidence in the boom years lay at the root of many of the trade's current problems. In particular, retailers had expanded too rapidly, he said.

"There is now too much retail space in Britain and there will be no short-term change to this situation."

"Market segmentation and niche retailing, though sound in principle, were carried to excess. Ever smaller and more specialized target markets became too insignificant to support the formats that catered for them."

The explosion of retail space had led to a decline in the productivity of some retailers in terms of sales per square foot and many are unlikely to see an improvement until 1992.

"Massive expansion plans are all very well if turnover grows as going to go on for ever but can be painful when spending starts to dry up. A major shopping development, once started, may take two years to complete. A shop can commence trading in an economic climate far removed from that which existed at the time it was commissioned."

Real sales growth of 2 per

cent had been achieved overall by the retail sector last year but retail space grew at a faster rate and so real sales per square foot had fallen by about 1 per cent, he said.

"The same will happen in 1990 only more so," Mr Eassie said. Sales per square foot this year are expected to fall by 1.8 per cent.

But jewellers, grocers, chemists, and toy and sports retailers had increased their productivity in terms of sales per square foot since 1988 while DIY, electrical, furniture and menswear retailers had seen it drop dramatically — menswear by 14.4 per cent.

Mr Eassie said retailers had to stop concentrating on boosting sales and start improving profits through better productivity, by better targeting, more skilful use of electronic points of sale data and improved product selection.

The Verdict audience also heard that electrical retailers had "underperformed against customers' expectations" for too long.

Mr Brent Wilkinson, managing director of Comet Group, the electrical retail arm of Kingfisher, said decisions and investment in the sector as a whole had been driven more by opportunism than long term strategy and had damaged the market.

Electrical retailers had used arguments about market forces and the need for manufacturers to come up with innovative products as excuses for under-performing.

Corton leaps 62% to £5.08m

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX profits at Corton Beach, the rapidly developing USM motors, foods and leisure group, surged 62 per cent to £5.08 million in the year to end-January.

Group turnover, boosted by acquisitions, advanced 30 per cent to £138.9 million. Earnings per share rose by 25 per cent to 10.05p, and the dividend was improved 12 per cent to 0.7p.

Mr Mike Keen, chairman, said: "Each of our operating divisions traded profitably and made substantial progress in the year despite adverse conditions in a number of markets."

He remains optimistic, despite the poor economic climate in Britain, that progress can continue to be made at the operating level in the three trading divisions, and enable earnings growth to be maintained over the long term.

There was an extraordinary loss of £426,000, mainly relating to a loss on the sale of the leisure arcades business.

The shares eased 2p to 34p, after 37p.

SI losses deepen to £1.2m

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX losses at SI Group, the troubled brewing equipment manufacturer now controlled by the Abdullah brothers, deepened from £896,000 to £1.22 million in the year to end-December.

Turnover slipped from £6.33 million to £5.12 million. The loss per share extended from 3.6p to 4.1p. Once again, there is no dividend.

Reorganization and restructuring costs resulted in an exceptional loss of £650,000 and an extraordinary debit of £275,000.

SI plans to acquire Phenix, which markets heavy plant and provides consultancy services to the construction industry, for £1.8 million in cash and shares. SI also plans to buy Stamford Lime Co, which operates a limestone quarry near Grantham, for £1.2 million.

The acquisitions will be funded by a share issue and a rights offer, to be made by Flemings, on the basis of three new SI shares for every 11 shares at 12.5p, raising about £2.5 million before expenses.

Ex-Lands launches £7.8m rights issue

By Matthew Bead

THE Ex-Lands, the former mining company now being turned into a golf and leisure group, has launched a one-for-one rights issue to fund expansion.

The issue, at 33p a share, should raise £7.8 million after expenses, enabling the company to acquire a 25 per cent stake in a golf complex planned for Vichy, France, and to build an 80-bedroom hotel at its existing Bristol country club.

The Saatchi brothers, Charles and Maurice, who acquired a 30.6 per cent stake in the company last year as part of a restructuring, have said they will take up their rights "or procure subscribers" for their rights issue shares.

Their fully-diluted stake of 27.3 per cent is now owned by an 50-50 joint venture with Mr Graham and Mr Robert Bourne, the property businessmen who became joint chief executives of Ex-Lands two months ago. The Bournes will also take up their rights. Other

shareholders, with 37.7 per cent of the equity, are not taking up their rights and these shares have been placed with institutions at 34p a share.

The balance of 35 per cent has been underwritten by Brown Shipley. Ex-Lands eased 1p to 45p on the news.

In addition to the 25 million new shares issued under the rights a further 2 million are being placed with Electra Leisure and Electra Investment Trust to raise a further £750,000 of working capital. The placing will give Electra a 4.4 per cent stake in the group.

The company yesterday confirmed it had negotiated a right of first refusal on leisure projects conceived by International Management Group. It was the Bournes' close links with IMG that brought Ex-Lands the Vichy deal.

It also announced that Mr Andrew Blunt, formerly managing director at Local London Group, was joining Ex-Lands.

COMPANY BRIEFS

QUADRANT GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.11m (£4.42m)
EPS: 11.06p (15.21p)
Div: 2.35p, mkg 3.85p

RADIO CLYDE (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.20m (£1.01m)
EPS: 12.2p (10.8p)
Div: 3.25p (2.75p)

WILTON GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.82m
EPS: 0.18p (0.18p LPS)
Div: Nil (nil)

LONDON ATLANTIC (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.59m (£1.38m)
EPS: 2.57p (2.23p)
Div: 1.57p, mkg 2.5p

HIGHCROFT TRUST
Pre-tax: £0.69m (£0.61m)
EPS: 8.64p (7.69p)
Div: 1.35p, mkg 3.35p

FUNDVEST (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.58m (£0.71m)
EPS: n/a
Div: 10.00p (4.46p)

Last year's total dividend was 3.8p. Extraordinary profit of £1.6m, mainly from the sale of certain cellular communications assets.

Turnover grew to £4.68m (£4.09m). Board reports that advertising revenue since end of half-year shows satisfactory growth.

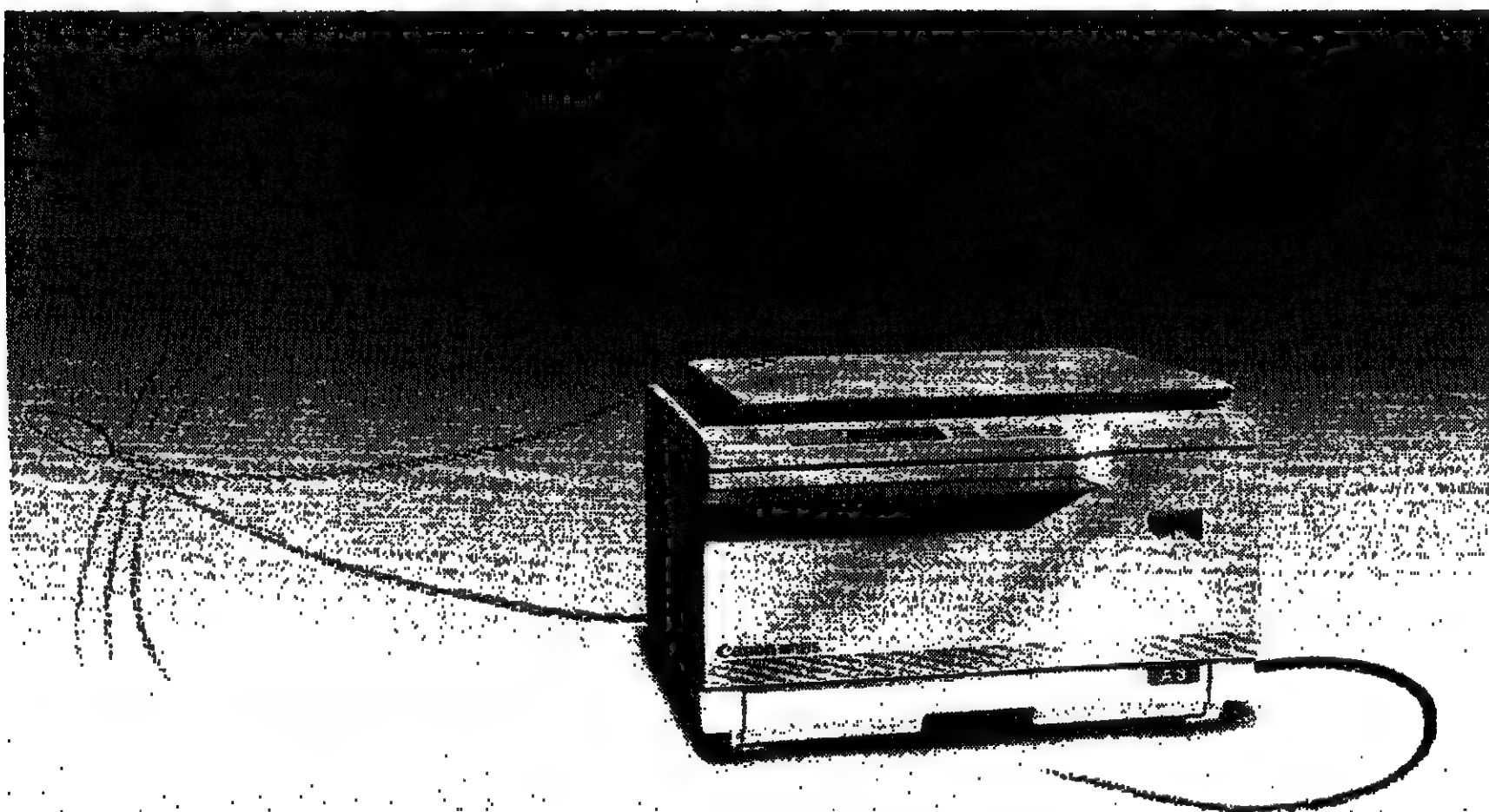
The company made a pre-tax loss of £135,000 last time. Turnover advanced to £5.24m (£0.62m). Net assets rose to £7.99m (£3.65m).

Last year's total dividend was 2.18p. The net asset value per share slipped to 81.6p (83.3p). Total revenue was £2.18m (£1.96m).

Final results for 1989. Last year's total dividend was 2.95p. Net turnover increased to £0.81m (£0.7m).

The net asset value slipped to 710.6p (787.6p) per capital share. Gross income advanced to £1.68m (£0.79m).

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IF ANYONE CAN, CANON CAN.

News Corp to seek listing for papers

From Lala Yu Hong Kong

THE News Corporation is to seek a stock market listing for the *South China Morning Post* and its sister paper, the *South China Sunday Morning Post*.

The Hong Kong daily is one of the most profitable publications in the worldwide group controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch. It has a circulation of 103,000.

In a brief statement, Mr Richard Searby, chairman of The News Corporation, said: "It is proposed that the listing would be effected by an offer for sale of a proportion of issued capital of the holding company of such newspaper interests."

"It is further proposed that the offer would be made through the financial advisers, Standard Chartered Asia."

Analysts place the value of the company at between HK\$4 billion (£306.4 million) and HK\$5 billion.

This represents almost a doubling of the market value when The News Corporation acquired it in December, 1986.

The firm was taken private and made a profit of about HK\$400 million last year.

Mr Murdoch took over the *Post* from Dow Jones, the US publisher, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and Mr Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong businessman.

Mr Nestor Hinzack, a director of Burdett Buckenridge and Young, said the decision was part of The News Corporation's debt-cutting process.

The market is actually looking for debt level reductions, he said, adding that The News Corporation was viewed as having a high level of debt.

The News Corporation shares fell 5 cents in Sydney to Aus\$10.15 (£4.60).

Rothschild trust counts the cost of Hoylake venture

By Neil Bennett Banking Correspondent

RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust run by J Rothschild Holdings, has suffered a £22.4 million loss by backing Sir James Goldsmith's failed bid for BAT Industries and his stake-buying in Rank Hovis McDougall.

In the year to end-March, RIT has been forced to write off £1.3 million of its £8.3 million investment in Hoylake Investments, the vehicle that Sir James and Lord Rothschild used to mount the bid for BAT.

RIT still has a 6.5 per cent stake in Hoylake, which said last month that it would not renew its bid for the tobacco and financial services group. The company is now deciding what to do with its remaining shares in BAT.

The trust has also written off £1.4 million of the £11.8 million it put into Sunningdale, which bought a 29.9 per cent stake in RHM.

The worst loss of all was caused by RIT's 25 per cent holding in Anglo Group, which slumped 48 per cent in value to £21.5 million. Anglo owns 75 per cent of Hoylake and 35 per cent of Sunningdale, and its shares slid from 450p to 235p during the year.

The collection of write-downs, caused RIT's total net assets to fall by 3 per cent to £335 million over the year, or 148p per share.

Mr Clive Gibson, one of RIT's managers, said he was not worried about the losses in Anglo and Sunningdale. He said: "The pain is temporary, and it's not a cash pain. We hope ultimately to make money out of the situation."

RIT's asset value was held



Lord Rothschild: on losing side in bid for BAT

up by strong gains in some of its other holdings. Its stake in GPA Group, the aircraft leasing company, rose by \$10 million to \$30.6 million in the year, and the trust's option over a 13.7 per cent stake in Cavernham Forest Industries, a timberland company, rose from \$15 million to \$17.2 million.

Mr Gibson said RIT remained bearish about world stock market prices and had kept a large part of its portfolio liquid during the year. More than a third of the assets were held in gilt and bonds. This provided strong income, which was £18.1 million, compared to £6.35 million in the eight months to March 1989.

Pre-tax profits were £12.3 million, compared to £6.71 million.

However, Mr Gibson said: "We are a long-term investor. We are interested in increasing asset value, not earnings." RIT was spun off from J Rothschild in 1988 to look after the company's longer-term investments.

Maxwell stake in Bell is frozen

From David Tweed Sydney

THE 16.5 per cent stake held by Mr Robert Maxwell in Mr Alan Bond's Bell Group Limited was frozen after the National Companies and Securities Commission won an order to restrain dealing in the parcel.

The order will remain in effect until Perth Federal Court can inquire into the NCSC's claim that transactions that led to Mr Maxwell's purchase breached the Takeover Code.

If Mr Maxwell wants to sell in the meantime he will have to give the NCSC 48 hours' notice and obtain permission from the court. This was the NCSC's third attempt to freeze the shares.

Mr Maxwell brought them from Mr David Aspinall, the managing director of Bell Group, last week. Mr Aspinall bought them two days earlier.

The NCSC claims Mr Aspinall is not entitled to buy the shares because he was an associate of Bond Corporation, Bell's major shareholder, and because the transaction was a breach of section 45 of the code.

The NCSC said it wanted to freeze the shares to ensure the court had the maximum flexibility to remedy the original alleged breach after a full hearing of its case against Mr Aspinall.

Mr Maxwell's counsel argued that section 45 did not apply to a third party who bought shares from an individual who had breached the code.

Mr Justice Lee held that the proper interpretation of section 45 was not one "capable of a ready answer" so it was appropriate to preserve the status quo until a full hearing.

The Bell Group's main asset is the *West Australian*.

Trivial Pursuit for Russia

By Gillian Bowditch

MOST companies doing business with Russia have to be diplomats as well as businessmen but none more so than Serif Cowells, which makes the Trivial Pursuit board game. Up until recently, giving the wrong answer to a yellow question (history) could cost you more than your next throw of the die.

Serif is having talks in the next few weeks in Russia with a view to launching Trivial Pursuit.

The Russian game is already written and production could start soon. But Mr Ray Deeks, a director, does not expect Russians to be playing the game this year. He said: "Things move much more slowly over there."

Russian television viewers are already familiar with the concept of Trivial Pursuit.

Serif launched a programme based on Trivial Pursuit with a view to selling the game. The programme, where families compete against each other and win prizes such as television sets and calculators, has been a great success and is watched by 90 million.

The game has been vetted by the Russians and Mr Deeks says getting them to accept that answering history questions could be a game is a breakthrough in itself.

Serif has just signed a contract with Horn Abbot, the Canadian owner of the game, to manufacture it for another five years for the British and European markets.

But it is handling the marketing over to the Tonka toy company which is already sales agent and distributor for the game. Serif now manufac-

tures the game in 16 languages, but the Eastern European markets hold the key to Trivial Pursuit's future. Serif has sold 10 million sets of the game since 1988 but sales fell from 3.3 million in 1988 to 2 million last year and are expected to be about 1.4 million this year.

The potential in Eastern Europe is high and Serif may use the television game to break into the market as department stores are thin on the ground.

But Serif is now turning its marketing efforts to Nintendo video games, Japanese arcade-style games that have been a big success in the US. Serif has concluded a deal with Dixons to sell the games and Mr Deeks predicts that they could be an even bigger money-spinner than Trivial Pursuit.



General Accident

THREE MONTHS' RESULTS

The results for the three months ended 31st March 1990, estimated and unaudited, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1989, which are restated at 31st December 1989 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1989.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	3 Months to 31.3.90 Estimate £ millions	3 Months to 31.3.89 Estimate £ millions	1989 Year Actual £ millions
Premium Income			
General Business	782.9	718.6	3,100.2
Long Term Business	102.4	87.8	381.3
	885.3	806.4	3,481.5
Investment Income	105.3	101.6	462.7
NIZ Bank Result	(11.8)	(16.1)	(47.6)
Estimate Agency Result	(5.5)	(5.6)	(20.5)
Underwriting - General Business Result	(163.3)	(20.7)	(203.8)
Long Term Business Profits	6.8	5.9	26.9
	(58.5)	65.1	217.7
Less Interest on Loans	22.4	10.2	64.5
U.K. Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	-	-	6.2
Profit (Loss) before Taxation	(80.9)	54.9	147.0
Taxation - U.K. and Overseas	(18.1)	16.0	32.1
Profit (Loss) after Taxation	(62.8)	38.9	114.9
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	(0.8)	(4.5)	(13.7)
	(62.0)	43.4	128.6
Long Term Business Profits - GA Life 1988 Valuation	-	-	9.5
Net Profit (Loss) attributable to Shareholders	(62.0)	43.4	138.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	(29.1p)	20.6p	65.3p
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.65	\$1.61	\$1.61
Canada	\$1.93	\$1.57	\$1.87

Notes

- (1) Investment income excludes £3.1m (1989 £3.2m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.
- (2) The NIZ Bank result includes gains and losses both realised and unrealised on investments held for trading purposes.
- (3) The transfer of shareholders' profit from the long term business fund is now stated gross of taxation and on a current year basis.

Analysis by Territory of General Business Premium Income and Underwriting Result

	3 months to 31.3.90 Premium Income £m	3 months to 31.3.89 Underwriting Result £m	3 months to 31.3.89 Premium Income £m	3 months to 31.3.89 Underwriting Result £m
U.K.	270.2	(80.2)	249.5	10.2
U.S.A.	229.8	(29.5)	217.8	(18.4)
EEC other than U.K.	53.7	(15.4)	50.8	(3.4)
Canada	86.7	(4.6)	80.6	(5.6)
Pacific Basin	81.6	(13.8)	73.8	(4.2)
Other Overseas	31.5	(5.3)	23.7	1.6
London Market Business incl. internal reinsurance	29.4	(14.5)	21.4	(0.9)
	782.9	(163.3)	718.6	(20.7)

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 8.9% and 3.6% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 10.6% and 1.6% respectively.

In the United Kingdom, net written premiums were £270.2m (1989 £249.5m). The was an underwriting loss of £80.2m (1989 £10.2m profit) which was severely impacted by bad weather particularly in January and February. The Homeowners and Commercial Property accounts reported losses of £26.9m (1989 £3.5m profit) and £28.0m (1989 £3.7m profit) respectively. The Motor account suffered from a marked increase in claims frequency to produce a loss of £14.0m (1989 £1.2m profit). Experience in the Liability account remains adverse.

In the United States, net written premiums were \$379.2m (1989 \$350.7m) and the operating ratio was 112.67% as compared with 108.18% for the same period last year. On the United Kingdom basis, the underwriting loss was £29.5m (1989 £18.4m loss). There was some deterioration across all classes of business other than Personal Property which showed an improvement.

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £53.6m (1989 £12.5m loss). Storm losses impacted adversely on European territories. The Pacific Basin result reflects the cost of major storms in Australia and increased claims frequency in deteriorating market conditions in both Australia and New Zealand.

There was an encouraging increase during the quarter in both annual and single premiums for life business in the United Kingdom. New annual premiums for the three months were £13.7m (1989 £11.1m) and single premiums £8.8m (1989 £5.3m).

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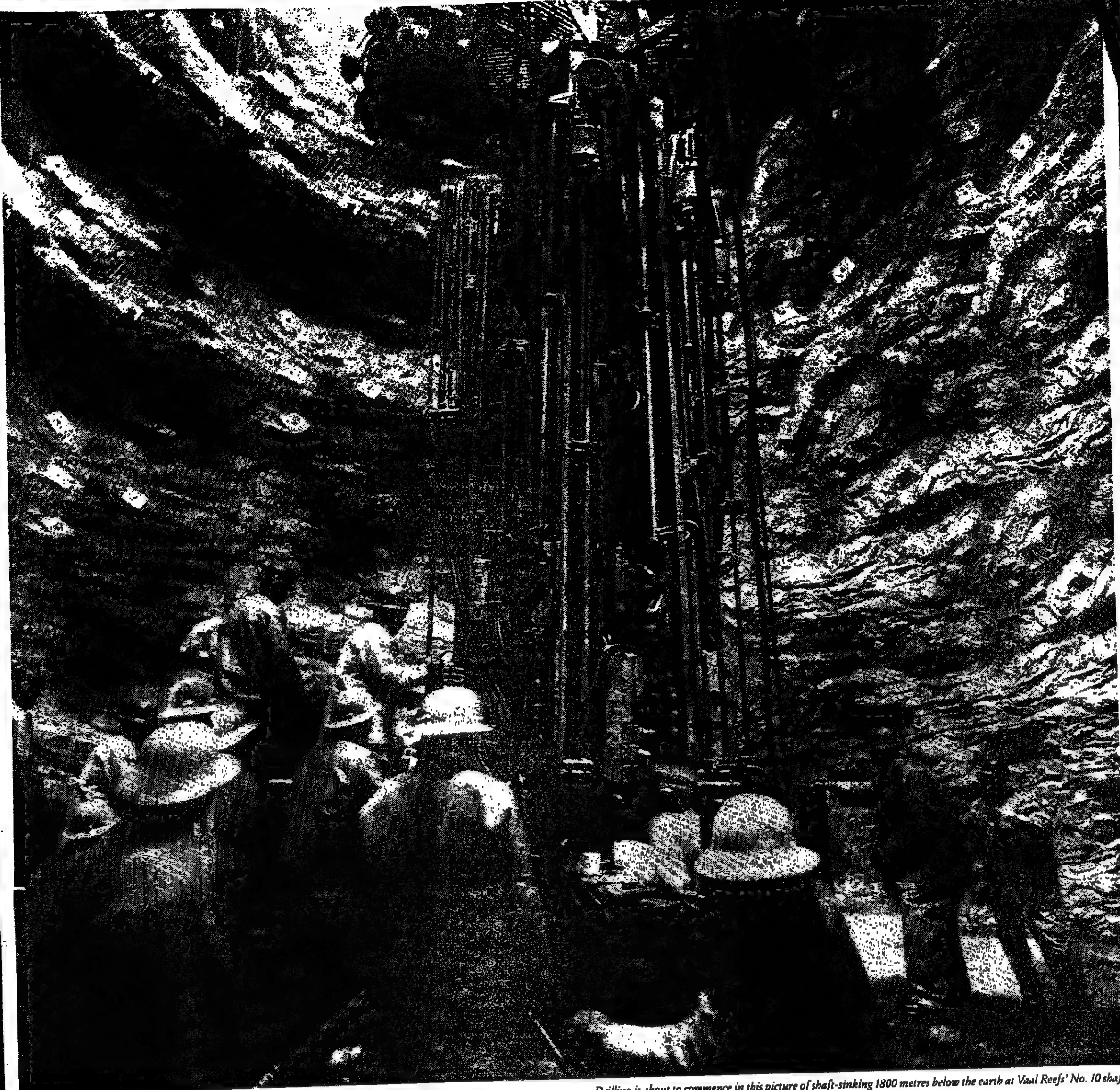
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Drilling is about to commence in this picture of shaft-sinking 1800 metres below the earth at Vaal Reefs' No. 10 shaft.

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Where once miners listened to the rocks, today we have developed sophisticated seismic probes, planted deep into the rock and linked to a computer room on the surface, to detect the slightest tremor.

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Two and a half miles below the surface, fierce heat is also a constant problem. Here rock reaches temperatures of up to 63°C, hot enough to burn the skin when touched.

To combat this, we have created the largest refrigeration plants in the world, using chilled water and ice

to cool the air and make conditions bearable for the miner to work in.

As well as pioneering mining technology in our present mines, we haven't stopped looking for gold. This year, Anglo is spending R200m. on prospecting for gold in South Africa alone.

You might think that after over a century of mining, gold in South Africa would be running out. On the contrary, we believe that its potential reserves far exceed any known deposits in any other country.

Our activities extend far beyond our gold mines. Anglo American is South Africa's biggest group of companies - with interests that range from diamond, coal and platinum mining to paper, steel, farming and financial services.

We create wealth for our shareholders, and for our workers and their families - a total of

1,500,000 South Africans of all races and colours.

All this shows how deeply rooted we are in South Africa. We intend to stay there and continue investing there. From now until the end of 1992, capital investment should exceed R8 billion.

(In the case of Vaal Reefs, we're planning now for the year 2030.)

But as well as striving to build an economic future, we are also committed to a just, non-racial society within South Africa.

Which is why we will go on investing in its people, funding multi-racial schools and universities, skills training at technical colleges, health clinics and hospitals.

We will continue to encourage share and home ownership amongst our employees. We will help more small businesses by identifying goods and services they can supply.

For by creating not just wealth but opportunity, we can help move towards a fairer, more prosperous, post-apartheid South Africa for us all.

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Electricity board wins order from Honda site

By David Young

HONDA has awarded a five-year contract for power supply for a plant being built at its site at Southern Electric, the on-to-be privatized area.

After privatization of the electricity industry will be to buy direct from the distribution companies or from the two main generating companies being created.

In addition to winning the supply contract for the 100,000-car-a-year plant, Southern Electric has also won the contract for electrical contracting during construction and will also advise Honda on energy efficiency.

Mr Andrew Jones, the plant manager, said: "Our choice of supplier was based on a number of factors in addition to price. Honda's policy throughout the world is to assimilate as far as possible into the community and use local suppliers, wherever they offer competitive services."

The Honda deal is in contrast to that signed by Toyota for its plant in Derbyshire. Toyota is buying its power direct from PowerGen, the smaller of the two generating companies.

The Toyota deal has angered the distribution companies because it was signed before they had details of wholesale prices available to them from the two main generators to enable them to compete for the £50 million contract. Complaints to Mr John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, are being investigated.

Minorco looks West for a \$2bn cash mountain home

By a Correspondent

MINORCO, the natural resources group, plans to spend most of its \$2 billion cash mountain on mining and processing acquisitions within three years, with North America the preferred area, Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the chairman, said.

"We would see ourselves investing the bulk of our cash within two to three years," he said. He added that North America is the prime location for mining opportunities and the area in which Minorco plans to focus its expansion. Europe is mainly for processing businesses.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said there were no discussions in progress at the moment, but added: "That does not mean to say there couldn't be something very soon."

Minorco boosted its cash holdings to \$2.5 billion last year when it sold its 29 per cent stake in Consolidated Gold Fields to Hanson for \$1.6 billion after failing to gain control of ConsGold in a lengthy takeover battle. Hanson later acquired ConsGold in an agreed deal.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said Minorco no longer plans to acquire passive minority investments except for strategic purposes. He said the recent \$705 million acquisition of Freeport-McMoRan Gold, renamed Independence Mining, provided a strong base for further expansion in the US.

Analysts initially said Minorco, based in Luxembourg, may have paid too



Three-year programme: Julian Ogilvie Thompson

much for Freeport. US base metal companies were trading at five to six times earnings, compared with 17 times historic earnings for Freeport.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said that critics of the acquisition had focused on last year's results rather than Freeport's present and future cash flow.

"We expect to produce 300,000 ounces of gold this

year and we are encouraged by the way drilling is going," he said.

Minorco's interest in the US was highlighted this week by the formation of Minorco (USA) as a holding company for Minorco's North American investments. "We believe the right way to operate in any country is to have a free-standing company there," Mr

Ogilvie Thompson said. "We don't believe in management at long distance."

Analysts believe the timing of Minorco's acquisition strategy will be strongly influenced by interest rates.

"With money fetching the sort of rates it does, one has to question at what stage one puts it into the market through acquisitions," said Mr Rob Weinberg, director of the mining department at James Capel, the broker. The bulk of Minorco's cash is invested in dollar instruments, currently yielding 9-10 per cent.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said that with the present high interest rates, Minorco is under no pressure to invest too rapidly. "Our money earns its keep. People tend to come to us with offers and we are confident we'll find the right opportunities," he said.

He added that these opportunities could come in the form of companies that view themselves as over-borrowed and consequently are under pressure to sell. "It could be a company that wants to sell assets that do not fit its current strategies," he said.

There has been speculation that Minorco might take an increased shareholding in Inspiration Resources Corporation (IRC), its 56 per cent-owned US natural resources group. Mr Reuben Richards, IRC's chief executive, has been appointed chairman of Minorco's new US holding company, but Mr Ogilvie Thompson said there are no plans to take a larger stake.

Inflation and growth 'set to rise in Europe'

By Colin Narbrough

WESTERN Europe will enjoy faster growth this decade than during the 1980s, but will experience a "distinct upturn" in inflation over the next few years, Mr David Kern, National Westminster Bank's chief economist, forecasts.

In the bank's latest review, consolidation of the single European market and the new opportunities emerging in Eastern Europe are seen sustaining a robust level of activity averaging just under 3 per cent a year to 1995.

Though slightly below the exceptionally high growth rates of the last two years, it is still a percentage point above the 1980s average.

Mr Kern forecasts that the enduring strength of European demand will result in upward pressure on prices, which will be exacerbated by the proposed monetary union between the two Germanies and by medium-term developments in Eastern Europe.

West Germany is expected to achieve average growth of 3 per cent between 1991 and 1995, with inflation over the five-year period averaging 3.8 per cent.

Mr Kern predicts that Britain will take sterling into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System in the next 15 months, despite the Government's lack of enthusiasm for the wider concept of monetary union.

He argues that the serious economic and political pressures facing Britain increase the attractions of the ERM.

The Guinness trial

Ronson caught up through 'naivety and ignorance'

By A Correspondent

GERALD Ronson, chairman of Heron International, was swept into the Guinness scandal through naivety, stupidity and ignorance, a court heard.

Heron was paid £5 million as a success fee after investing £25 million in Guinness shares to support the price of the stock during the £2.7 billion bid for Distillers. The group was also paid £800,000 to cover losses when the stock was eventually sold.

Department of Trade inspectors were appointed to look into the bid on December 1 1986 and Mr Ronson was interviewed.

In transcripts read to Southwark Crown Court, Mr Ronson said Anthony Parnes, his trusted friend, a broker, first approached him in January 1986 to invest in Guinness. A limit of £10 million was set and it was agreed, and confirmed by Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chief executive, that any losses on the stock would be covered by Guinness.

Mr Ronson alleged in April he agreed with Mr Saunders to increase his holding to £25 million in return for a success fee based on 20 per cent of the investment.

Earlier, at the end of March, he said he confronted Mr Parnes after being angry to learn that despite his £10 million limit, the Heron

investment already stood at £17 million. "I felt perhaps that we got sucked in and perhaps Parnes used us," he told the DTI.

Mr Ronson said Mr Parnes told him he was getting a fee of £3.25 million or £3.5 million from Guinness. "Which I was amazed at for giving advice and support, market advice," he said.

And he added: "If he had told me that right from the beginning I would have smelt that the whole thing was not right." Asked why the deal did not smell in March, Mr Ronson said with hindsight it was "naivety, stupidity and ignorance on my part, I hold my hand up in the air." But he added: "It's easy to get swept into a thing, especially when dealing with people you have business relations with and you trust." Mr Ronson said the Heron success fee was then discussed and confirmed by Mr Saunders at a lunch meeting.

He said if he had known the arrangement was wrong, Heron would not have got involved because it was not his or his group's style of business.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, Mr Ronson, aged 50, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting, and Companies Act breaches. The trial continues.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (pts)	Yearly ch'ge (pts)	Daily ch'ge (US\$)	Yearly ch'ge (US\$)
The World	715.6	0.4	-15.2	0.4	-10.0	0.0	-12.1
(free)	136.6	0.4	-15.3	0.3	-10.2	0.0	-12.2
EAFE	1258.0	0.3	-19.4	0.1	-13.7	-0.1	-16.5
(free)	128.8	0.3	-19.7	-0.1	-14.0	-0.1	-16.8
Europe	737.6	0.4	-3.0	0.1	-3.7	0.0	0.5
(free)	158.8	0.4	-3.0	-0.2	-3.8	0.0	0.5
Nth America	501.9	0.7	-8.7	0.3	-3.3	0.3	-3.3
Nordic	1532.8	1.3	-1.5	1.1	-1.2	0.9	2.0
(free)	243.1	1.8	3.4	1.3	3.4	1.2	7.1
Pacific	2832.9	0.2	-28.6	0.0	-18.6	-0.2	-28.0
Far East	4107.0	0.2	-29.0	0.0	-20.0	-0.2	-29.5
Australia	290.8	0.1	-18.3	-0.1	-9.5	-0.3	-13.2
Austria	1914.4	-0.5	28.6	-0.8	29.8	-0.8	33.5
Belgium	911.3	0.0	-7.4	-0.5	-8.5	-0.4	-4.1
Canada	508.5	0.8	-15.3	0.3	-11.7	0.4	-12.2
Denmark	1308.5	0.4	-0.5	0.0	-1.8	0.0	3.1
Finland	97.8	0.4	-15.4	0.1	-16.2	0.0	-12.3
(free)	134.4	1.7	-9.8	1.4	-8.7	1.3	-8.6
France	844.7	0.3	4.5	0.1	3.7	-0.1	8.2
Germany	972.6	-0.2	8.0	-0.5	8.6	-0.6	9.8
Hong Kong	2288.0	2.1	3.1	1.7	6.6	1.7	6.8
Italy	386.6	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-1.0	-0.1	-3.9
Japan	4319.1	0.1	-30.0	0.0	-20.8	-0.3	-27.5
Netherlands	872.1	-0.1	-7.8	-0.5	-7.8	-0.5	-4.4
New Zealand	84.9	-0.6	-18.3	-0.7	-12.2	-1.0	-15.3
Norway	1578.1	2.9	17.6	2.7	18.5	2.5	21.8
(free)	274.9	2.9	17.7	2.7	18.8	2.5	21.9
Sing/Malay	1923.0	1.3	-3.6	0.7	-2.1	0.9	-0.1
Spain	219.6	0.4	-7.2	0.0	-8.4	0.0	-3.9
Sweden	1680.1	1.4	-3.6	1.2	-2.9	1.0	-0.2
(free)	246.2	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.6	1.6	5.4
Switzerland	934.3	4.0	2.2	2.9	-3.9	3.8	5.9
(free)	142.0	4.2	1.7	3.0	-4.4	3.7	6.4
UK	841.3	-0.1	-11.0	-0.1	-11.0	-0.4	-7.8
USA	464.4	0.7	-8.0	0.3	-2.6	0.3	-2.6

(Bp) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 87.2 (day's range 87.2-87.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for May 10						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
New York	1,8715-1,8760	1,8750-1,8760	0,85-0,86	2,75-2,78	Argentina austral	
Amsterdam	1,9473-1,9536	1,9487-1,9530	0,28-0,29	0,52-0,53	Austrian dollar	
Cornwall	3,0851-3,0897	3,0882-3,0897	1,14-1,16	6,15-6,16	Bahrein dir.	
London	55-56	55-56	1,14-1,15	6,15-6,16	Brazil cruzeiro	
Amsterd.	10,485-10,5058	10,4862-10,5068	41,31-37	124-140	Cyprus pound	
London	1,0234-1,0241	1,0230-1,0240	35-40	97-99	Finland marks	
Paris	7,474-7,477	7,475-7,477	1,14-1,15	6,15-6,16	French franc	
Dublin	242,95-244,94	243,95-244,94	3-14da	35-63da	Hong Kong dollar	
Madrid	171,75-172,58	172,75-172,58	12-40	32-32	India rupee	
Milan	2013,32-2014,78	2013,32-2014,78	1,14-1,15	6,15-6,16	Indonesia Rp	
Oso	10,7030-11,072	10,7310-11,072	31-25	91-94	Malaysia ringgit	
Paris	9,2278-9,2833	9,2480-9,2833	41-44	124-137	Mexico peso	
Tokyo	10,0391-10,0478	10,0391-10,0478	21-19	51-52	Saudi Arabia riyal	
London	252,17-253,13	252,81-253,13	11-16	51-54	Singapore dollar	
Frankfurt	19,27-19,34	19,25-19,33	11-10	30-28	S. Africa rand (com.)	
Paris	2,3230-2,3239	2,3230-2,3239	31-32	81-82	S. Africa rand (ind.)	
Frankfurt	1,8150-1,8150	1,8150-1,8150	31-32	81-82	Swiss franc	
Premiums = pr. Discount = dis.					Tunisia dinar	
					Uganda shilling	
					Yemen Ba	
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DOLLAR SPOT RATES						
Ireland	1,8320-1,8335				Italy	
Singapore	1,8532-1,8552				Belgium (com.)	
Malaysia	2,9940-2,9960				Hong Kong	
Australia	1,8532-1,8552				New Zealand	
Canada	1,1650-1,1660				Spain	
Sweden	0,6245-0,6255				Austria	
Norway	0,4150-0,4160				Switzerland	
					Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exel.	

MONEY MARKET						
Base Rates %: Clearing Basis 15 Finance Hous 15%						
Overnight High 14 Low 11 Week base 14%						
Discount Market Rates %:						
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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

COMMODITY FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Open		High		Low		Close		Vol	
PT-TSE 1000									
Jun 90	2130.0	2202.0	2120.0	2190.0	2202.0	2120.0	2190.0	2202.0	2120.0
Jun 90	2130.0	2202.0	2120.0	2190.0	2202.0	2120.0	2190.0	2202.0	2120.0
Three Month Sterling									
Jun 90	84.55	85.07	84.55	85.07	84.55	85.07	84.55	85.07	84.55
Jun 90	84.55	85.07	84.55	85.07	84.55	85.07	84.55	85.07	84.55
Three Month Eurodollar									
Jun 90	91.43	91.47	91.43	91.47	91.43	91.47	91.43	91.47	91.43
Jun 90	91.43	91.47	91.43	91.47	91.43	91.47	91.43	91.47	91.43
Three Month Euro DM									
Jun 90	91.74	91.75	91.74	91.75	91.74	91.75	91.74	91.75	91.74
Jun 90	91.74	91.75	91.74	91.75	91.74	91.75	91.74	91.75	91.74
COMMODITIES									
LONDON FOX									
COCOA									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
Jun 80-659	May 90-541	Jun 80-659	May 90-541	Jun 80-659	May 90-541	Jun 80-659	May 90-541	Jun 80-659	May 90-541
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
COFFEE									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
SUGAR									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
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LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541	AMT Futures
May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541	May 90-541
LONDON HAY									
May 90-541	AMT Futures	May 90-541							

COMMODITIES

[illegible][illegible]

THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 11 1990

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares mixed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 30. Dealings end today. Settlement day May 14. Settlement day May 21.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and prices/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28).

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Dalton (aa)	Food	
2	Watts Blake	Building/Roads	
3	Wicks	Drugs/Stores	
4	Nichols (UN) (Vimio)	Food	
5	Grand Met (aa)	Breweries	
6	Allen-Eze	Industrials E-K	
7	Carlton Comm	Leisure	
8	Berkley Gp	Building/Roads	
9	Isotom	Industrials E-K	
10	Baynes (Charles)	Industrials A-D	
11	Berley Inv	Industrials A-D	
12	Trafalgar H (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
13	Volex	Electricals	
14	Vickers	Industrials S-Z	
15	Mark Spencer (aa)	Drugs/Stores	
16	Cable Wireless (aa)	Electricals	
17	McKay Secs	Property	
18	Hawker Siddh (aa)	Industrials E-K	
19	Ultramar (aa)	Oil/Gas	
20	Cowie (T)	Motors/Aircraft	
21	Rand Org (aa)	Industrials L-R	
22	Morgan Cble	Industrials L-R	
23	Phys	Chemicals/Plas	
24	Wardle Stores plc	Chemicals/Plas	
25	Lex	Motors/Aircraft	
26	Bilton (P)	Property	
27	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
28	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	
29	Zellers Gp	Leisure	
30	Gann	Drugs/Stores	
31	Customs	Property	
32	Suter	Industrials S-Z	
33	Camla	Industrials A-D	
34	Independent	Newspapers/Pub	
35	Evans Of Leeds	Property	
36	MS Intl	Industrials L-R	
37	Charter Coms	Industrials A-D	
38	Travis Perkins	Building/Roads	
39	WPP	Paper/Print/Adv	
40	Gul Pci	Oil/Gas	
41	Shafsbury	Property	
42	Tiphook	Transport	
43	Sutrom	Electricals	
44	BICC (aa)	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum bond. The money will be added to today's prize.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1000	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
1001	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	0.00
1002	1002.00	1002.00	1002.00	1002.00	0.00
1003	1003.00	1003.00	1003.00	1003.00	0.00
1004	1004.00	1004.00	1004.00	1004.00	0.00
1005	1005.00	1005.00	1005.00	1005.00	0.00
1006	1006.00	1006.00	1006.00	1006.00	0.00
1007	1007.00	1007.00	1007.00	1007.00	0.00
1008	1008.00	1008.00	1008.00	1008.00	0.00
1009	1009.00	1009.00	1009.00	1009.00	0.00
1010	1010.00	1010.00	1010.00	1010.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1011	1011.00	1011.00	1011.00	1011.00	0.00
1012	1012.00	1012.00	1012.00	1012.00	0.00
1013	1013.00	1013.00	1013.00	1013.00	0.00
1014	1014.00	1014.00	1014.00	1014.00	0.00
1015	1015.00	1015.00	1015.00	1015.00	0.00
1016	1016.00	1016.00	1016.00	1016.00	0.00
1017	1017.00	1017.00	1017.00	1017.00	0.00
1018	1018.00	1018.00	1018.00	1018.00	0.00
1019	1019.00	1019.00	1019.00	1019.00	0.00
1020	1020.00	1020.00	1020.00	1020.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1021	1021.00	1021.00	1021.00	1021.00	0.00
1022	1022.00	1022.00	1022.00	1022.00	0.00
1023	1023.00	1023.00	1023.00	1023.00	0.00
1024	1024.00	1024.00	1024.00	1024.00	0.00
1025	1025.00	1025.00	1025.00	1025.00	0.00
1026	1026.00	1026.00	1026.00	1026.00	0.00
1027	1027.00	1027.00	1027.00	1027.00	0.00
1028	1028.00	1028.00	1028.00	1028.00	0.00
1029	1029.00	1029.00	1029.00	1029.00	0.00
1030	1030.00	1030.00	1030.00	1030.00	0.00

UNDATED

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1031	1031.00	1031.00	1031.00	1031.00	0.00
1032	1032.00	1032.00	1032.00	1032.00	0.00
1033	1033.00	1033.00	1033.00	1033.00	0.00
1034	1034.00	1034.00	1034.00	1034.00	0.00
1035	1035.00	1035.00	1035.00	1035.00	0.00
1036	1036.00	1036.00	1036.00	1036.00	0.00
1037	1037.00	1037.00	1037.00	1037.00	0.00
1038	1038.00	1038.00	1038.00	1038.00	0.00
1039	1039.00	1039.00	1039.00	1039.00	0.00
1040	1040.00	1040.00	1040.00	1040.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1041	1041.00	1041.00	1041.00	1041.00	0.00
1042	1042.00	1042.00	1042.00	1042.00	0.00
1043	1043.00	1043.00	1043.00	1043.00	0.00
1044	1044.00	1044.00	1044.00	1044.00	0.00
1045	1045.00	1045.00	1045.00	1045.00	0.00
1046	1046.00	1046.00	1046.00	1046.00	0.00
1047	1047.00	1047.00	1047.00	1047.00	0.00
1048	1048.00	1048.00	1048.00	1048.00	0.00
1049	1049.00	1049.00	1049.00	1049.00	0.00
1050	1050.00	1050.00	1050.00	1050.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1051	1051.00	1051.00	1051.00	1051.00	0.00
1052	1052.00	1052.00	1052.00	1052.00	0.00
1053	1053.00	1053.00	1053.00	1053.00	0.00
1054	1054.00	1054.00	1054.00	1054.00	0.00
1055	1055.00	1055.00	1055.00	1055.00	0.00
1056	1056.00	1056.00	1056.00	1056.00	0.00
1057	1057.00	1057.00	1057.00	1057.00	0.00
1058	1058.00	1058.00	1058.00	1058.00	0.00
1059	1059.00	1059.00	1059.00	1059.00	0.00
1060	1060.00	1060.00	1060.00	1060.00	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1061	1061.00	1061.00	1061.00	1061.00	0.00
1062	1062.00	1062.00	1062.00	1062.00	0.00
1063	1063.00	1063.00	1063.00	1063.00	0.00
1064	1064.00	1064.00	1064.00	1064.00	0.00
1065	1065.00	1065.00	1065.00	1065.00	0.00
1066	1066.00	1066.00	1066.00	1066.00	0.00
1067	1067.00	1067.00	1067.00	1067.00	0.00
1068	1068.00	1068.00	1068.00	1068.00	0.00
1069	1069.00	1069.00	1069.00	1069.00	0.00
1070	1070.00	1070.00	1070.00	1070.00	0.00

BREWERIES

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1071	1071.00	1071.00	1071.00	1071.00	0.00
1072	1072.00	1072.00	1072.00	1072.00	0.00
1073	1073.00	1073.00	1073.00	1073.00	0.00
1074	1074.00	1074.00	1074.00	1074.00	0.00
1075	1075.00	1075.00	1075.00	1075.00	0.00
1076	1076.00	1076.00	1076.00	1076.00	0.00
1077	1077.00	1077.00	1077.00	1077.00	0.00
1078	1078.00	1078.00	1078.00	1078.00	0.00
1079	1079.00	1079.00	1079.00	1079.00	0.00
1080	1080.00	1080.00	1080.00	1080.00	0.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1081	1081.00	1081.00	1081.00	1081.00	0.00
1082	1082.00	1082.00	1082.00	1082.00	0.00
1083	1083.00	1083.00	1083.00	1083.00	0.00
1084	1084.00	1084.00	1084.00	1084.00	0.00
1085	1085.00	1085.00	1085.00	1085.00	0.00
1086	1086.00	1086.00	1086.00	1086.00	0.00
1087	1087.00	1087.00	1087.00	1087.00	0.00
1088	1088.00	1088.00	1088.00	1088.00	0.00
1089	1089.00	1089.00	1089.00	1089.00	0.00
1090	1090.00	1090.00	1090.00	1090.00	0.00

FINANCE, LAND

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1091	1091.00	1091.00	1091.00	1091.00	0.00
1092	1092.00	1092.00	1092.00	1092.00	0.00
1093	1093.00	1093.00	1093.00	1093.00	0.00
1094	1094.00	1094.00	1094.00	1094.00	0.00
1095	1095.00	1095.00	1095.00	1095.00	0.00
1096	1096.00	1096.00	1096.00	1096.00	0.00
1097	1097.00	1097.00	1097.00	1097.00	0.00
1098	1098.00	1098.00	1098.00	1098.00	0.00
1099	1099.00	1099.00	1099.00	1099.00	0.00
1100	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1101	1101.00	1101.00	1101.00	1101.00	0.00
1102	1102.00	1102.00	1102.00	1102.00	0.00
1103	1103.00	1103.00	1103.00	1103.00	0.00
1104	1104.00	1104.00	1104.00	1104.00	0.00
1105	1105.00	1105.00	1105.00	1105.00	0.00
1106	1106.00	1106.00	1106.00	1106.00	0.00
1107	1107.00	1107.00	1107.00	1107.00	0.00
1108	1108.00	1108.00	1108.00	1108.00	0.00
1109	1109.00	1109.00	1109.00	1109.00	0.00
1110	1110.00	1110.00	1110.00	1110.00	0.00

FOODS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg
1111	1111.00	1111.00	1111.00	1111.00	0.00
1112	1112.00	1112.00	1112.00	1112.00	0.00
1113	1113.00	1113.00	1113.00	1113.00	0.00
1114	1114.00	1114.00	1114.00	1114.00	0.00
1115	1115.00	1115.00	1115.00	1115.00	0.00
1116	1116.00	1116.00	1116.00	1116.00	0.00
1117	1117.00	1117.00	1117.00	1117.00	0.00
1118	1118.00	1118.00	1118.00	1118.00	0.00
1119	1119.00	1119.00	1119.00	1119.00	0.00
1120	1120.00	1120.00	1120.00	1120.00	0.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES					
421	582	Amber Day	396	403	+15.3
422	583	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
423	584	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
424	585	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
425	586	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
426	587	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
427	588	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
428	589	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
429	590	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
430	591	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
431	592	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
432	593	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
433	594	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
434	595	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
435	596	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
436	597	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
437	598	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
438	599	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
439	600	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
440	601	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
441	602	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
442	603	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
443	604	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
444	605	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
445	606	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
446	607	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
447	608	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
448	609	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
449	610	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
450	611	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
451	612	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
452	613	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
453	614	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
454	615	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
455	616	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
456	617	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
457	618	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
458	619	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
459	620	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
460	621	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
461	622	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
462	623	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
463	624	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
464	625	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
465	626	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
466	627	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
467	628	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
468	629	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
469	630	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
470	631	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
471	632	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
472	633	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
473	634	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
474	635	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
475	636	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
476	637	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
477	638	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
478	639	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
479	640	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
480	641	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
481	642	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
482	643	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
483	644	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
484	645	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
485	646	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
486	647	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
487	648	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
488	649	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
489	650	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
490	651	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
491	652	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
492	653	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
493	654	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
494	655	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
495	656	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
496	657	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
497	658	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
498	659	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
499	660	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0
500	661	Amber Day	40	50	+25.0

MOTURING

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

When will your car be stolen?

Before you walk away from the car this morning, stop for a moment and ask yourself whether you have locked it. One in five motorists forgets to turn the key when they leave their cars in a car park or outside their homes. That is an open invitation to thieves estimated to be making a profit of £200 million a year from the car-crime boom in Britain.

It also costs another £750 million - in police time and insurance costs to cope with the almost one million thefts or break-ins involving motor vehicles.

The statistics of car crime give Britain one of the worst records in the world: 180 cars a day go missing in London alone and six out of 10 credit cards and 70 per cent of

Britain is a world leader - in car thefts - and it costs us dearly

award because no manufacturer deserves it. There has been some progress, especially by Vauxhall, with its deadlock system on some models. It cannot be complacent, though, because Consumers' Association tests show that the Nova 'supermini' is one of the five easiest cars to steal.

Ford spent £500 million on its new Fiesta range, but according to industry experts, it is not exactly resistant to thieves. Rover spent £200

million on the Rover 200 and 400 series and another £200 million on the Metro, yet none have the deadlock systems the fleet industry demands.

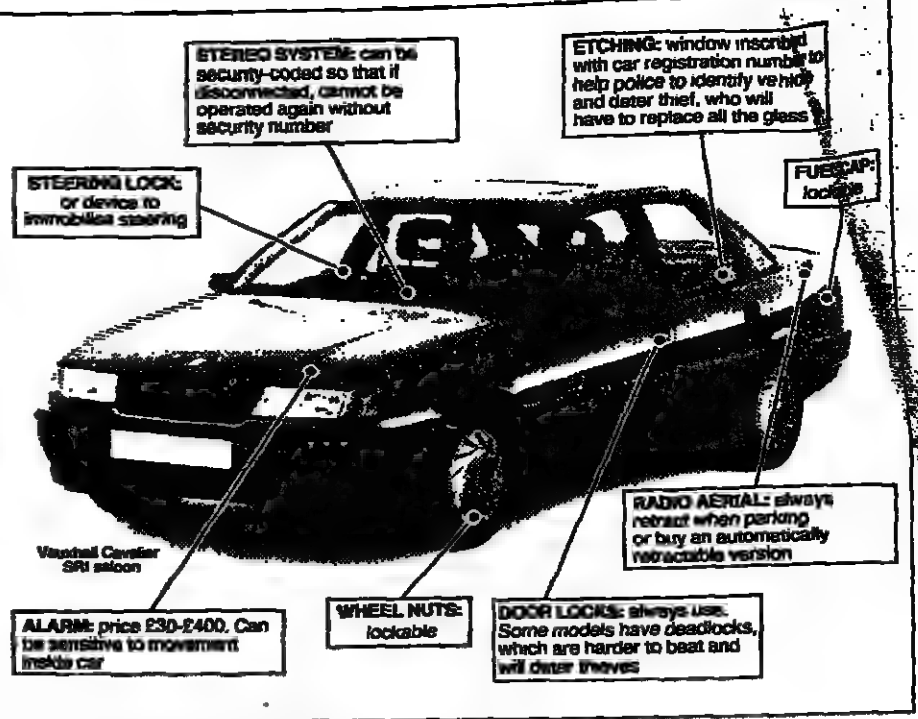
Clive Sherlock, operations manager at the BVRLA, thinks it is not good enough. He says: 'The increase in car crime is disturbing and it would be nice to see resources diverted to vehicle security instead of increasing efforts in areas such as performance.'

Yet whatever the manufacturers do can be negated by the negligence of the driver. Follow these simple tips:

- Lock your doors every time, even if leaving the car for just a few minutes. Dealers may also be able to specify tougher deadlocking systems on some cars.
- Fit an alarm. Alarms sensitised even to movement inside the vehicle cost between

£30 and £400. Systems that have a flashing display, to deter thieves, are best.

- Make sure wheel nuts have locks as well as the fuel filler cap to deter passing mischief-makers.
- Buy a car stereo which is either security-coded, so that it is 'scrambled' and rendered useless when removed from the car, or a stereo system that can be removed when you leave the car.
- Have the windows etched with the vehicle registration number. Even if your car is taken, the glass will have to be removed before the car can be sold.
- Do not leave luggage or valuables in view. Lock them in the boot or take them along.
- Make sure the steering lock is built-in, otherwise invest in a bolt-on device. A deterrent will often encourage a thief to look elsewhere.



The price of affection

A car with a wealth of history is driving to auction success

Vauxhall, mint condition, one careful lady owner, first offer up to £20,000. The Vauxhall 14/40, which goes to auction on Monday, in Birmingham, is an unremarkable car by the standards of today's auction prices in which Ferraris are measured in millions.

But the history of affection behind PW 3306 makes it one of the most interesting cars in the collection put up for sale by ADT Auctions.

It was first registered in June, 1924, by a Miss Jalland, who bought the chassis for £420, although the coachwork is by Arthur Mulliner, the coachwork specialists. A dashboard plaque records the sale as having taken place at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, where Miss Jalland's father, it is said, was a parson.

She later married a Reverend Mr Orbell, and took the Vauxhall with her to a parish near Market Harborough, where it stayed with the couple until 1966, pottering around the country lanes of Leicestershire.

The car was then bought by Geoffrey Ellis, who kept it at his Market Deeping garage in Cam-



Sixty-six years-old and only two owners: Vauxhall 14/40

bridgeshire, lovingly cared for by his senior foreman, Walter Golder. The 14/40 has not been restored and is still taxed in Miss Jalland's name. The original log-book, detailing its history, plus an introduction book, goes with the car.

ADT says the 14hp engine performs well through a three-speed gearbox, although brakes are fitted only to the rear wheels - which means some thought has to be given to stopping.

The car may not have changed much, but the price inevitably has. ADT expects between £17,000 and £20,000 at its Classic and Historic Sales at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham.

ROADWISE

Cars are getting bigger - and that's official. Department of Transport statistics show a 12 per cent growth in cars powered by engines of 1.8 to 2 litres, while the overall stock of vehicles in the UK grew by 4 per cent to 24.2 million. More worrying for British industry, 53 per cent of all cars on the roads are imported.

Department of Transport Annual Vehicle Census, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EE.

Ford has won the praise of Sweden's State Inspection Board for producing the most reliable car on the market. The board surveyed 100 Sierras in the 1987 model year and could find only 12 minor faults. Ninety per cent had no faults at all.

Prices go up for a series of cars this month. Vauxhall cars increase by 3.3 per cent, adding about £217 to a Nova 1.0 saloon, £375 to a Cavalier 1.4, £575 to a £14,000 Carlton. Volvo prices rise between 2.1 and 3 per cent, depending on model, apart from the new 480 range.

Alfa Romeo is winning its battle for acceptance in the highly competitive executive car market: sales of the 164 series are up by a third this year. The company says 354 cars have left showrooms in the first quarter. Meanwhile, prices go up, by an average 2.3 per cent.

The Routiers Drivers' Club is being relaunched with a package of member benefits, including £25 worth of free fuel, 30 per cent off windscreen replacement and discounts on other parts and components. In addition, all members get a free Union Internationale Des Chauffeurs Routiers passport, which offers a mutual assistance scheme for drivers stranded outside Britain.

Nissan goes executive

When the Japanese enter a market, they turn up the heat on their competitors. The Nissan Maxima, the executive car from the British-Japanese manufacturer, for example, is as yet little seen in the company-car parks packed with Ford Granadas, Vauxhall Carlton and Rover 800s. That may change.

From the outside, it is a handsome car but perhaps with not enough presence to tempt traditional executive-sector buyers away from their usual purchases. However, peruse the list of extras - claimed to be £1,000 worth on the 1990 model year cars - and the Maxima becomes a competitive product indeed.

The 3.0 V6 SE Auto is priced hard at £21,000 compared with Rover's big 827 models, the Granada Ghia and Carlton 3.0i CDX. Yet standard features in-

clude air-conditioning, overdrive, cruise control, anti-lock brakes, stereo with power aerial and electric sunroof. The extras thrown in by Nissan this year include long-range, remote-control, electronic locking system, ultra-sonic theft alarm and factory-fitted compact-disc player.

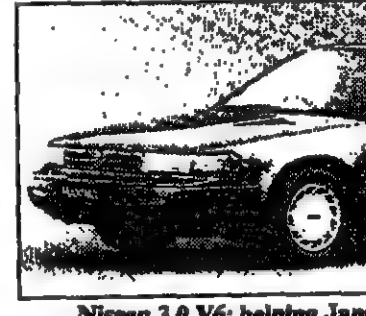
A silly three-litre V6 with more than 170bhp waving to be unleashed for a potential maximum speed of 130mph-plus is a joy to drive. Although the car is not quick from a standing start, it has plenty of acceleration for overtaking. "Kickdown" lag from the automatic gearbox is slight and moving from 60mph to about

75mph takes 4.7 seconds, according to Nissan figures. That underlines the evidence that Nissan has captured the big-car formula to spread its range upwards from its more traditional image as a supplier of small cars and hatchbacks.

The decision by many companies to drop their strict "Buy British" policies has brought many more cars into start making their choices and companies such as Citroen have benefited.

The Maxima should score in the same way, but I am still not convinced that it will. BMW has won converts with high-quality models, the coxet of a Mercedes-Benz, even in a small saloon version, can still be rivalled in this country only by Jaguar.

Executive buyers are class-conscious and the Japanese still have to break that barrier. They are chipping away steadily.



Nissan 3.0 V6: helping Japan to use the big-car formula

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

071-481 4000
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS

MERCEDES-BENZ

ALAN DAY
Mercedes-Benz Specialist
071-481 4000

Model	Price
190 1.8	£12,995
190 2.0	£14,995
190 2.3	£16,995
190 2.5	£18,995
190 2.8	£20,995
190 3.0	£22,995
190 3.2	£24,995
190 3.5	£26,995
190 3.6	£28,995
190 3.8	£30,995
190 4.0	£32,995
190 4.2	£34,995
190 4.6	£36,995
190 5.0	£38,995
190 5.2	£40,995
190 5.4	£42,995
190 5.6	£44,995
190 5.8	£46,995
190 6.0	£48,995
190 6.2	£50,995
190 6.4	£52,995
190 6.6	£54,995
190 6.8	£56,995
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190 7.6	£64,995
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190 8.4	£72,995
190 8.6	£74,995
190 8.8	£76,995
190 9.0	£78,995
190 9.2	£80,995
190 9.4	£82,995
190 9.6	£84,995
190 9.8	£86,995
190 10.0	£88,995
190 10.2	£90,995
190 10.4	£92,995
190 10.6	£94,995
190 10.8	£96,995
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190 11.4	£102,995
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190 17.6	£164,995
190 17.8	£166,995
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190 18.6	£174,995
190 18.8	£176,995
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190 30.8	£296,995
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190 31.6	£304,995
190 31.8	£306,995
190 32.0	£308,995
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190 61.0	£598,995
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HOCKEY

Familiar opponents provide England's semi-final challenge

ENGLAND, delighted to have reached the semi-finals of the women's World Cup here, spent yesterday morning looking forward to training in the afternoon at the stadium, where today they meet the Netherlands for a place in the final.

England's game will be played late in the afternoon when the temperature will be cooler than the 80°F likely earlier in the day. England and the Dutch are the only two teams yet to concede a goal and England will be encouraged by their recent record in matches between the two countries.

Although the Dutch are attempting a third successive World Cup triumph, after their wins at Kuala Lumpur (1983) and Amsterdam (1986), where they beat England 3-1 on their way to

From Joyce Whitehead, Sydney

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not only their short corner striker but a dangerous forward whenever she reaches the circle. Capped 76 times, she has scored 85 international goals.

England, unfortunately, have been hit by injury and are down to 13 players. Joan Lewis, out of the tournament since the second day with a knee injury, flew home yesterday to go straight into hospital and Tammy Miller has been suffering from food poisoning. However, Kathryn Edwards, who had nine stitches in a facial cut on Tuesday, played on Wednesday and seems none the worse for the injury.

Sue Stoccombe, the England coach, said she was very relieved that the team had reached the semi-finals but admitted: "It was against the odds that they finished as high as they did."

Australia, whose team includes 11 of their Olympic medal winning squad, meet South Korea, their opponents in the final at Seoul, in the other semi-final. The South Koreans are the highest scoring team in the tournament with 17 from their five pool B matches. Australia, who topped pool A ahead of England, have missed seven penalty strokes, including one on Wednesday.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE management committee has imposed a fine of £250 on Lyons, the second-division club, for being in breach of the disciplinary code. Players from the club received a total of 20 yellow temporary suspension cards and one red card for permanent dismissal during the season.

THE management committee of the Poundstretcher National League is pursuing its plans to expand the first and second divisions from 16 to 18 teams for the 1991-92 season. However, subject to approval by the management committee of the Hockey Association, it has made slight modifications on how this goal is to be achieved.

At the end of the 1990-91 season the bottom two of the 16 teams in the first division will be relegated to the second division, leaving room for four clubs to be promoted to the first division from the second, to make a total of 18 teams.

The second division, having

sent four teams up to the first division and relegated the bottom two to the regional leagues, will have room for six regional league champions to make a total of 18, thus eliminating, for the present, the inter-league play-off. A further revision of the system seems likely for the season to follow.

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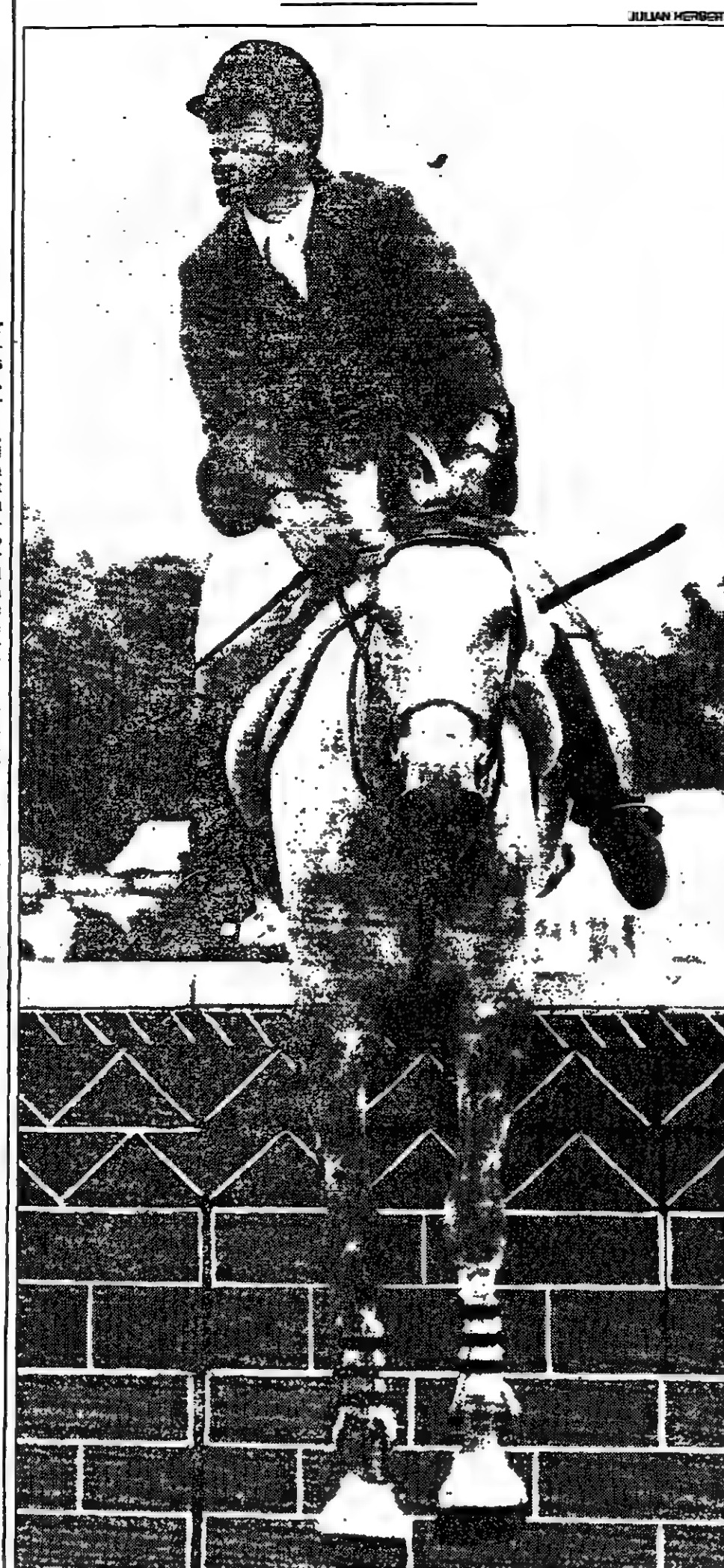
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EQUESTRIANISM



High and handsome: James Fisher and Island Life jumping at Windsor yesterday

Willie Griffin's perfect start

By Jenny MacArthur

Stack spotted Willie Griffin at the Dublin horse show as a four-year-old and sat outside the stable for four days so that no one else could look at him before McCormack arrived from England. McCormack, a Master of the Girth and South Berks, liked him and a deal was struck with the owner, a butcher after whom the horse is named.

McCormack received a prompt dividend. The young horse won the four-year-old class at Windsor in 1988—a win which heralded his five championships the following year. Only at the South of England show at Ardingly last June did he fail to impress the judges. There he stood third in his class.

Stack's aim this year is to win the Hunter championship at the Horse of the Year show in October, a prize which so far has eluded him.

In the Mountain and Moorland pony classes, the Queen, a regular visitor to the show, watched her Highland pony stallion, Balmoral Dee, win his class for the second successive year. The championship was won by the Connemara mare, Hild Rambler.

Later in the evening, James Fisher, on his Argentinean-bred thoroughbred, Monterey II, held on to their early lead to win the Albion speed stakes. Fisher, a former winner of the Windsor Grand Prix, finished almost four seconds ahead of the runners-up, Paul Crago on Who Dares.

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RACING

Hills in peak form as Blue Stag enters the Derby picture

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

THE form experts had to put their thinking caps on again at Chester yesterday when Blue Stag earned himself a 16-1 Derby quote by beating the favourites, Saumarez and Bridal Toast, in the Dee Stakes.

Charles St George and Henry Cecil, Saumarez's owner and trainer, had a further setback when Michelozzo, last year's St Leger winner, was beaten all ends up by Alec Stewart's promoted handicapper, Braashee, in the Ormonde Stakes.

Not the semblance of a fluke surrounded Blue Stag's three quarters of a length defeat of Saumarez, a victory which gave Harry Hills a remarkable ninth win in Chester's listed race in the past 20 years. Bridal Toast finished a further 12 lengths away third.

Hills was in irresistible form on one of his favourite tracks. At the end of the afternoon Willie Carson brought Further Flight storming through to beat High Key in the Eaton Handicap and so complete a double of nearly 30-1 for the trainer and jockey, it was Hills's fifth victory of the three-day meeting.

Yet another high-class winner staked by the young Northern Dancer stallion sensation, Sadler's Wells, Blue Stag was having only the third race of his career. There's no reason why he shouldn't run in the Derby, said Hills. "I know Robert would love him to. And when he won at Nottingham he beat Saumarez, who's going for the William Hill Dante at York next week."

The winner and runner-up came close together as Saumarez and Steve Causton duelled for the lead early in the straight. "There was nothing to it," said Hills. "They were both determined to come up the middle of the track to get the better going."

The winner carried the famous emerald green, royal blue and white colours of Robert Saumarez, previously successful in the Derby with The Minstrel and Golden Fleece. "I don't say he'll win the Derby," said the Isle of Man-based millionaire. "But he is certainly entitled to have his chance in a year like this."

To say that the Derby market is in a volatile state, would be an understatement. But despite Bridal Toast's performance yesterday, there is no reason to doubt the ability of Discretion, who beat him very easily in the Royal Lodge and remains 7-1 favourite for Epsom.

There is still plenty of confidence at Puborough in Discretion, who will be having his

first race for eight months and his only outing before the Derby in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood on May 23, just 14 days before the great race.

The group of three Ormonde Stakes was an extraordinary affair to watch. Michael Roberts' Braashee and Carson on Albad took the race by the scruff of the neck when sending their mounts past the pacesetter Top Class three furlongs from home.

Michelozzo became badly outpaced and was only fifth of the six runners with a furlong to run. But the 11-3 favourite then rallied to such purpose that he was only three lengths behind Braashee at the line.

Stewart's Braashee for Maktoum Al-Maktoum and last season, as a three-year-old, the Sadler's Wells colt had several times shown a formidable turn of speed, particularly when winning the Totep Festival Handicap at Ascot in September.

"Like most offspring of Sadler's Wells, he must have some cut in the ground," said Stewart. "He only looks like an ordinary horse on the Limodun. But I took him to the watered gallop the other day and he showed at least 10lb improvement. I'd love to run him in the Coronation Cup but it all depends on the going."

After Richard Hills had won the Scorpions Stakes on Mathurin for Tom Jones, Angus Gold, manager for the winning owner, Hamdan Al-Maktoum, said: "I suppose the fact that he is a possibility, as far as Salsabil and the Oaks is concerned, or indeed what her next race is going to be, we are going to try something over the weekend."

Lowe's appeal successful

JOCKEY Club stewards in London yesterday quashed a four-day ban handed out to John Lowe at Thirsk on Saturday. Lowe finished first on Hattia Fort in the Millgate Maiden Stakes but the Thirsk stewards, who awarded the race to Tinkerbird, and suspended Lowe for careless riding.

Having watched a recording of the race and listened to legal representations on behalf of all parties, the disciplinary committee found that Hattia Fort had interfered with Tinkerbird but that the interference was accidental. They therefore confirmed the placings but quashed Lowe's suspension.

Aliya inquiry research

THE Aga Khan's scientific experts are to visit Newmarket today to collect further evidence for the Aliya inquiry (Michael Seely writes).

"There has been so little commercial work done about Aliya that I have very little known about it," said Matthew McCloy, the Aga Khan's solicitor. "Because of this our experts have had to start virtually from scratch. However, when we

have collated this latest evidence, we shall know where we stand by the middle of next week."

Aliya won the Oaks at Epsom 11 months ago and was found positive for camphor after a routine dope test.

Camphor is a very little known but very serious contaminant which is involved in the horses and was successful over Lashkari (1984 Breeders' Cup Turf) and Vaynana (1981 Champion Stakes).

Yesterday's results

Chester

Carlisle

Worcester

Wetherby

Doncaster

Thames Valley

Wokingham

Windsor

Wolverhampton

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